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Rain leaves city with fallen trees

BENGALURU
Exactly 10 days after the first heavy rainfall exposed the lacuna in Bengaluru's civic infrastructure, the rain on Thursday again converted the city's roads into puddles and led to traffic jams even during non-peak hours. » Page 2

Siddaramaiah calls on Rahul

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday and reportedly discussed the issue of replacement of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as KPCC president. » PAGE 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

India holds fire as Trump slaps tariffs

- Trump announces tariffs ranging from 10% to 49%; India hit with 27% tariff
- India's Commerce Ministry 'examining the implications', will engage with stakeholders
- EU, China, Canada vow countermeasures; Japan, South Korea term tariffs regrettable

Jagriti Chandra
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump launched a full-scale trade war on Thursday, announcing massive "reciprocal tariffs", ranging from 10% to 49%, on U.S. imports from its trading partners around the world. India was not spared and was hit with a 27% tariff on its exports to the U.S. despite ongoing talks for a trade agreement.

The tariffs sparked warnings of reprisal from China and the European Union, though India's reaction was muted. Global markets plunged in response, from Japan's Nikkei which lost 4% and European markets that dropped more than 2% each, to India's Sensex, that shaved more than 300 points, while the Nifty dropped as well. In the U.S., the Dow Jones fell over 3% in the first hour of trading, while the Nasdaq crashed 4%.

Despite weeks of ongoing negotiations between U.S. Trade Representatives and Indian officials over a Bilateral Trade Agreement, Mr. Trump announced that India – which he claimed imposed duties of 52% on the U.S. – would face a "discounted" tariff of 27% on its exports to the U.S.

The tariff hikes, which Mr. Trump has said for weeks would herald April 2 as "Liberation Day" for the U.S., were considerably broader and higher than experts had predicted.

The U.S. President invoked his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to address large and persistent U.S. goods trade deficits, which he called a "national emergency".

He announced a 10% baseline tariff on all countries, which will take effect from April 5. An individualised reciprocal higher tariff on the countries with which the U.S. has the largest trade deficits will also be imposed from April 9.

India's official response to the announcement was subdued.

An official statement issued on Thursday morning said that the Commerce Ministry is "carefully examining the implications of the various measures", adding that it is engaged with all stakeholders, including Indian industry and exporters, to assess the impact of the tariffs. It also said, however, that it was studying "opportunities that may arise due to this new development", noting that India "values its Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership" with the U.S., and will continue BTA talks aimed at raising bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

India's comments were in contrast to other U.S. trading partners who had been slapped with tariffs. The European Union, China, and Canada threatened that there would be "countermeasures". Japanese Trade Minister Yoji Muto called the reciprocal tariffs "extremely regrettable".

CONTINUED ON
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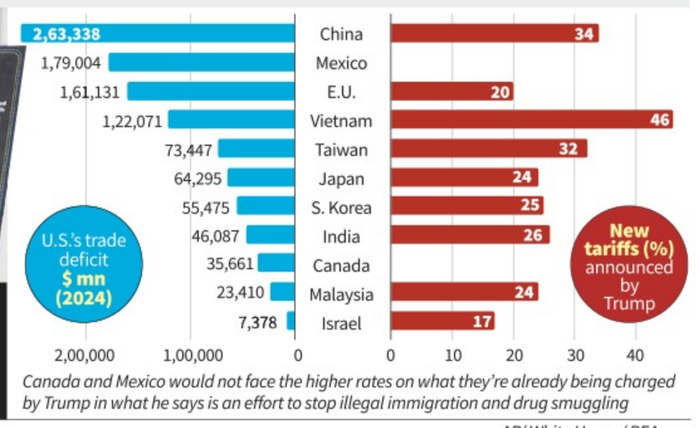
Raining tariffs U.S. President Donald Trump announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all U.S. trading partners, threatening to dismantle much of the architecture of the global economy and trigger broader trade wars

> This is Liberation Day, a long-awaited moment. 2nd April 2025 will forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn – DONALD TRUMP



Canada and Mexico would not face the higher rates on what they're already being charged by Trump in what he says is an effort to stop illegal immigration and drug smuggling

AP/ White House/ BEA.gov

Four die in accident near Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Four persons, including two women, died after their car was hit by a KSRTC Airavat bus, at Tubinakere, near Mandya, on Thursday.

The accident occurred near the exit at Tubinakere on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway.

The police gave the names of the deceased as Satyanandaraje Urs, Suvedini Rani, Nischita, and Chandrashekhar Raje Urs, all from Bengaluru. The accident occurred when they were proceeding towards Mysuru, they said.

While Nischita died on the spot, the others died in hospital, the police said.

The car was mangled beyond recognition following the accident and the police and the locals had to struggle to extricate the bodies from the vehicle.

The Mandya Rural police visited the spot and registered a case.

State submits proposal to NMC for 800 additional UG, 700 more PG seats

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The government, in a bid to significantly enhance seats in government medical colleges in the State, has submitted a proposal to National Medical Commission (NMC) seeking 800 more seats for undergraduate (UG) and 700 more for postgraduate (PG) medical courses.

The request has been made in the light of high demand for clinical courses, said Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister of Medical Education and Skill Development, speaking during an interaction with *The Hindu* on Thursday.

Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil during an interview with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

"Most government colleges in Karnataka have more infrastructure and material for practising clinical courses and we are eligible to get more clinical seats," he said.

"Earlier, we used to give proposals for enhancement of only 100 to 150 seats in a couple of old medical colleges for PG courses. This year, except for the newly started government medical colleges in Chickballapur, Chikkamagaluru, Haveri, and Chitradurga, we have submitted a proposal for enhancement of seats in all other government medical colleges," he said.

An enhancement of about 50 UG medical seats had been requested for each government medical college. "Without establishing new colleges, Karnataka can potentially get seats equivalent to opening four to five medical college this way," said the Minister.

CONTINUED ON
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NEW RGUHS CAMPUS
» PAGE 4

Heightened vigilance

Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel keep vigil in Jehangir chowk area of Srinagar on Thursday. Security was beefed up in the region following back to back encounters in Kathua and Samba with search operations continuing for around two weeks now. IMRAN NISSAR

State govt. likely to take Ordinance route on gig workers' social security, following talks with Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka is likely to take the Ordinance route to put in place measures for the security and welfare of gig workers, after a discussion in the Cabinet, announced Labour Minister Santosh Lad.

Representatives of the State government, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge, Industries Minister M.B. Patil, besides Mr. Lad on Thursday met Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi in which the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill was discussed. Gig workers' union leaders were also part of the delegation.

One of the decisions of the State government is to establish a gig workers' welfare board to ensure the well-being of workers at platform-based aggregators. FILE PHOTO

Sources aware of the developments told *The Hindu* that several changes were made to some clauses in the legislation. "Mr. Gandhi, along with the Karnataka ministers, went through the draft Bill point by point and finalised it. Next week it will be introduced as an Ordinance," sources told *The Hindu*.

Key decisions

Key decisions from the meeting included the establishment of a gig workers' welfare board – as mentioned in the draft Bill – to ensure the well-being of workers at platform-based aggregators and the collection of a 5% cess from the concerned companies to support welfare schemes for gig workers. The remaining required amount will be provided by the state government.

The Labour Department presented an eight-point proposal at the meeting during which Mr. Gandhi emphasised the need for swift implementation to safeguard gig workers' interests.

Six demands

According to the source, there were around six demands around cess collection, grievance redressal mechanism, cancellation, and so on which the aggregator companies wanted the government to look into before introducing the bill. Changes have been made to the previous draft "to strike a balance", the source said.

Shaik Salauddin, national general secretary of the Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers, who was present at the meeting, told *The Hindu* that the draft Bill in its present form looked favourable to the workers.

"The Karnataka Gig Workers Bill is a much-needed step towards recognising gig and platform workers as an essential part of the economy. It must ensure fair wages, job security, and social protection for workers who drive the app-based economy," he said.

Court refuses to discharge Prajwal in sexual assault case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru has declined to discharge former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna in an alleged sexual assault case while pointing that there are enough material to frame charges against him.

Santosh Gajanan Bhat, judge of the special court of sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs, said "materials and digital evidence recovered during the probe creates a strong and grave suspicion with respect to the commission of the alleged incident" even though the veracity of the digital evidence is a matter to be considered during trial which requires to be considered succinctly during the course of the trial.

Prajwal Revanna

On perusing the statement of other witnesses and also the materials collected by the investigating agency, the court said these material "clearly cast a grave suspicion with respect to the commission of the offence and as such question of discharging the accused on the aforesaid aspects does not arise."

It is to be "presumed in ordinary prudence that no woman would come before the court to make a statement about her own chastity which is considered to be much more important than being alive in normal Indian traditional society," the court said.

In this case, it has been alleged that Prajwal has sexually assaulted a domestic help at his Gannikada Farm House in Hassan district as well as at his house at Basavanagudi in Bengaluru during the COVID lockdown period in 2021. The case was initially registered at K.R. Nagar police station which was later transferred to the Special Investigation Team of the Criminal Investigation Department.

It's early days, but F1 2025 has all the ingredients of a potboiler

The Australian and Chinese GPs have served as appetisers for the 24-race calendar that resumes with the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka this weekend; the intra-team battle at McLaren and Red Bull's revolving door policy have added to the intrigue

REUTERS

S. Dipak Ragav

Reading the tea leaves from a small sample set and making wild projections into the future is often perilous. However, two races into the 2025 Formula One season, the championship has got off to a cracking start, with interesting storylines already surfacing.

Though there are 22 rounds left on the calendar, the first outings in Australia and China have served as the perfect appetiser, leaving fans licking their lips in anticipation.

For starters, McLaren, the reigning constructors' champion, has continued from where it left off last year. Lando Norris and his teammate, Oscar Piastri, took top honours in Melbourne and Shanghai, respectively, to lay down the marker early in the season.

Over the next three weeks, we could get a good idea of the pecking order and how the title fight could unfold. If McLaren continues its good form across the next three races, starting this weekend in Japan and followed by Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, it could make for an interesting intra-team battle between its two drivers.

Perfect opportunity

Having had a taste of what it entails when locked in a fight for the title in 2024 – albeit a long-shot attempt – Norris will feel now is his best chance of achieving his dream. This is the last year of the current regulations and most teams will switch focus development for 2026 midway through the year. He needs to do what Max Verstappen did the previous year: build up a massive lead and then play the percentage games towards the closing stages.

More importantly, Norris can't have weekends like in China, where he was not in the fight for pole in both the Sprint and the Grand Prix. Though he finished second behind his teammate, his performance was far from convincing. This brings us to another intriguing sub-plot. Norris not only needs to worry about his rivals in Ferrari and Mercedes but also has to watch over his shoulder to the other side of his garage.

Piastri put in his most complete weekend of his nascent F1 career in Shanghai to take his third career win. The Australian, who will turn 24 on Sunday, has shown improvement year-on-year since his debut in 2023. However, one area where he has consistently struggled has been in single-lap pace during qualifying. Last year, it was a lopsided 20-4 in Norris's favour.

The early signs in 2025 point to the fact that Piastri has taken a step forward in qualifying. The most impressive aspect of his win in China was that he outqualified Norris (Sprint and main race) and controlled the race from pole position without breaking a sweat. Even at his home race in Melbourne, Piastri was slower by less than a 10th of a second. He was running second and had the pace to even challenge for the win but ultimately made a mistake when rain hit the track, and he fell to back of the grid before finishing ninth.

If he can avoid such mistakes and regularly puts his car ahead of his teammate, Piastri could be a genuine title contender. The Aussie has already shown he is clinical in wheel-to-wheel battles and possesses immense mental strength, as evidenced by his calm and composed approach inside the cockpit.

While having two top drivers capable of fighting for the crown in the same team can be exciting, it could also quickly unravel and affect the harmony inside. If history is any indication, having two alphas under the same roof is often a recipe for disaster. McLaren has first-hand experience of this, considering that in 2007, its drivers Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso fought acrimoniously between themselves, allowing Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen to nick the title in the last race of the year, with both drivers finishing just one point behind the Finn.

Two Alphas not ideal

This is why most teams prefer a clear number one driver, as Red Bull does. Speaking of the energy drink giant, its lead driver, Verstappen, has dominated the sport since 2021, winning four titles on the bounce. The Dutchman has been the standout driver in the last half-decade and has already cemented his place in the pantheon of greats of the sport.

Early evidence from the two events showed that Red Bull doesn't have the pace to fight for wins yet. For the first time in the last four years, Verstappen has started the season not knowing whether he has the machinery to fight for the big prize. Yet his relentless nature has meant he has managed third and fourth place so far, putting him second in the standings, eight points behind leader Norris.

His impressive driving came to the fore last year, where he extracted results from a machinery that was at best third or the fourth-fastest car for more than half a season. The 27-year-old maximised everything when his Red Bull was rapid in the first half of the season. He then consolidated his championship lead by consistently finishing on the podium despite some serious threats from Norris in the last two-thirds of the season.

This weekend's Japanese Grand Prix at the iconic Suzuka circuit could be an early indication of where exactly Red Bull lies in the pecking order. The fast-flowing figure-eight layout is one of the most challenging ones on the calendar for the driver and the car. The high-speed sections in the initial part of the lap required millimetre-perfection from the driver as the track snakes through a series of fast S-bends, which also puts a premium on the car's aerodynamic performance.

Historically, this has been the Milton Keynes outfit's strong suit, and it can give an idea of whether the weakness in the first two races was circuit-specific or something more serious. A disappointing result here could threaten Verstappen's vice-like grip on his crown.

If Red Bull's car woes weren't enough, the biggest news in the paddock has been the team's revolving door policy regarding its second driver. Post the Chinese GP, the squad sacked Liam Lawson after giving him just two races, in which he qualified last and failed to score points.

Now, Red Bull has promoted Yuki Tsunoda from its sister outfit Racing Bulls, after ignoring him for the second seat at the end of last year to replace Sergio Perez. The Japanese driver couldn't have asked for a better place than his home race to make his debut for a championship-wining outfit.

The mess surrounding the second driver cost the team the constructors' championship last year, even as Verstappen sealed the drivers' crown. Red Bull has a history of promoting young drivers too early into the sport, throwing them in the deep end and then chucking them out mercilessly if they fail to swim.

Ever since Daniel Ricicardo left in 2018, the team has struggled to find the right candidate alongside Verstappen. For Red Bull, the 63-time Grand Prix winner is the lodestar; the whole unit is built around him and his needs. What it looks for in a driver for the other seat is one who can play the perfect rear-gunner, qualifying and finishing a few places behind Verstappen while taking points off his rivals and also help the team in the constructors'. But that kind of driver has proven elusive.

"There's a wider question around how the Red Bull programme is run and the Red Bull drivers are being developed on the whole," says former F1 driver and commentator Karun Chandhok.

"We have now seen this is the fourth different driver after (Pierre) Gasly, (Alexander) Albon and Perez who have done well in a different team or done well either before or after Red Bull. Perez was good at Force India before. Gasly and Albon are doing good jobs in other teams. But we haven't seen them being able to deliver the same results in the Red Bull," added the second Indian to drive at the highest level.

"There are two different things to consider. One is whether the Red Bull car is that tough to drive and specialised for Max. That's a difficult problem to solve because, to be honest, they have to make the car as fast as possible for Max. He is the best bet for the World Championship. Making a car easier to drive normally makes it actually slower. They have got themselves into a slightly tricky position because with Max as their lead candidate, the car works for his driving style and he can get the results that others cannot. It's a challenge to find a way that works for everyone."

Missing a trick

Karun elaborated that Red Bull missed a trick in not looking at someone like Carlos Sainz last year. The Spaniard is someone Red Bull knows well, is a proven race winner, and compared well against Charles Leclerc during his four-year tenure at Ferrari. However, Sainz and Verstappen had a frosty relationship when they were teammates during their rookie year in 2015 at Toro Rosso (now Racing Bulls), which might have gone against him.

"I believed Red Bull should have signed someone experienced. Sainz would have been an obvious choice because he was available. They've had a previous history with him, and I think they could have got him. Albon had a tough time earlier against Max, but he's now got much more experience now and is driving very well. I think they need someone mentally strong, mature and experienced to be alongside Max," said Karun.

The next three races could indicate whether Red Bull has finally made the right decision, or if Tsunoda could join the latest in a long line of drivers whose careers have been torched by the six-time constructors' champion.

THE GIST

- McLaren, which has won both races, looks the team to beat. However, a driver battle could upset calculations
- While Norris won in Australia, Piastri took the chequered flag in China
- Norris (44) leads Verstappen by eight points while Russell (35) and Piastri (34) are in the mirrors of the top two
- Lawson shown the door after two races, with Tsunoda taking his Red Bull seat in front of home fans

'Cauvery on Wheels' to give priority to those awaiting connection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cauvery on Wheels, an initiative where BWSSB will supply Cauvery water in tankers for those who book online, will prioritise not only 110 villages yet to be fully served by Cauvery water, but also those who have applied for Cauvery V Stage connection, BWSSB chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said.

"Those who have applied for the connection, those who have paid and distribution network work is under way to provide them connections will be given priority to provide water under the scheme," he said, adding that the initiative will soon be flagged off by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Manohar said amid reports of water tankers already hiking prices in some areas, there were also reports of lack of demand in many other areas. "We have opened 'Cauvery on Wheels' platform for private tanker owners to register themselves. They can rent their tankers to us to provide water to those in need. Tanker owners who want to register can do so on the BWSSB website," Mr. Manohar said.

Rain leaves city with fallen trees, overflowing manholes

A total of 12 trees and 41 branches fell across eight divisions of BBMP following heavy rainfall

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Exactly 10 days after the first heavy rainfall exposed the lacuna in Bengaluru's civic infrastructure, the rainfall on Thursday again converted the city's roads into puddles and led to traffic jams even during non-peak hours in the afternoon.

The IMD station in Bengaluru city recorded 4.3 mm rainfall, the HAL airport station and KIA station recorded 38.8 mm and 22.4 mm rainfall, respectively, till 5.30 p.m. on Thursday.

The rains resulted in a dip in the mercury levels as the maximum temperature in Bengaluru city was 28.5°C. At HAL airport and KIA, the maximum temperatures were 28.3°C and 30.4°C, respectively.

While cloudy weather persisted from morning, by afternoon, many localities, especially in East Bengaluru, received moderate to heavy rainfall. As a result, Inner Ring Road, Old Madras Road, Old Airport Road, Sarjapur Road, Bellandur, Domlur, Jeevan Bima Nagar, Kasturinagar, Vasanth Nagar, Kadugodi, Madiwala, Silk Board, BTM Layout, Tin Factory, and parts of Outer Ring Road were severely waterlogged.

The rains on Thursday led to dip in mercury levels as the maximum temperature in Bengaluru city was 28.5°C. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A total of 12 trees and 41 branches fell across the eight divisions of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), including a tree which fell in Rajajinagar 10th Main, damaging three cars and two two-wheelers. The fallen trees and branches also caused traffic snarls in several areas, while overflowing manholes let out sewage water on to the roads.

"Many roads between Thippasandra and Jeevan Bima Nagar were inundated as it rained a lot in a short duration. However, worse was the overflowing manholes in Indiranagar and Thippasandra. There was a power cut as soon as it started raining and I had to postpone a dental appointment. Clearly, one rain can show us the problems with every civic department in the city," said Ishanvi D.V., resident of Thippasandra.

BBMP holds meeting

BBMP Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath held a meeting on Thursday and instructed officers to take precautionary steps to avoid problems in the monsoon season.

While there are 209 flood-affected areas in Bengaluru, Mr. Giri Nath said measures were already taken in 166 spots. He directed the officials to personally visit and take action in the remaining spots.

"Appropriate measures should be taken in areas which were vulnerable during the last monsoon season to avoid problems this time. Accordingly, complete the works in Sai Layout, Pai Layout, Kendriya Vihar Apartment, Kogilu Cross, Sarjapur Road (Iblur Junction), Abbigere Kere Kodi, Mysore Road, Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple, and other places before the onset of the monsoon season," Mr. Giri Nath directed officials.

He asked engineers to inspect the 180 waterlogging spots on major roads, which have been identified by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, and take measures to clean waste from grates installed on road side.

IMD forecasts rain today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The IMD forecast for Bengaluru city and the neighbourhood for the next 36 hours is generally cloudy sky, moderate rain with gusty wind 30-40 kmph likely to occur in some areas. "Maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 29°C and 20°C, respectively," IMD said.

Dengue-control measures to be ramped up as cases rise

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With a rise in dengue cases in Bengaluru, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Thursday directed officials to take immediate measures to curb the spread of the disease in the city.

Addressing a virtual meeting held at Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML), he emphasised the need for stringent action to prevent water stagnation and mosquito breeding.

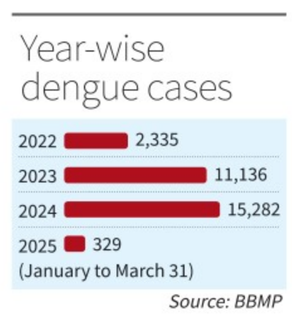
"Rain has begun in the city, and we must act without delay. Public awareness is crucial and citizens should be educated on dengue prevention," he said, adding that penalties would be imposed on those failing to maintain cleanliness.

Multi-department coordination

To control the outbreak, Mr. Giri Nath instructed officials to work in coordination with multiple departments, including Health, Horticulture, Forest, BSWML, Storm Water Drain, and Road Infrastructure departments. He stressed that waterlogged areas must be identified and cleared promptly.

Special focus will be given to areas reporting a higher number of dengue cases. "Mosquito breeding sites should be identified, and immediate fogging and insecticide spraying should be conducted," he directed.

A municipal worker fumigates a park in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO



Entomologists to be appointed

Harsha Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, also part of the meeting, said that strict surveillance measures would be implemented.

"Fever clinics will be set up in high-risk areas, and those failing to maintain hygiene in vacant plots and construction sites will be penalised," he said. He also instructed officials to ensure insecticide spraying once a week.

To streamline monitoring, a separate nodal officer will be appointed for each BBMP zone, along with eight entomologists, one for each zone. The State government will also arrange necessary dengue testing kits.

Suralkar Vikas Kishor, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP, revealed that 15,282 dengue cases were reported in Bengaluru in 2024, compared to 11,136 cases in 2023, and 2,335 cases in 2022.

From January to March 31 this year, 329 cases have been recorded. To combat the outbreak, a zone-wise action plan is being prepared, he added. "Last year, mosquito breeding sites were identified, and fines amounting to ₹24 lakh were imposed on violators," he said.

Art exhibition from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An exhibition honouring artist M.T.V. Acharya will open on April 4 at the Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC) in Bengaluru. The event will start at 5 p.m., and the exhibition will be open to the public till April 13 from 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The venue is located at No. 6, B.P Wadia Road, Basavanagudi. After the opening, there will be an illustrated lecture on M.T.V. Acharya's life and art by R.G. Singh at 6 p.m.

Woman dies in accident on NICE Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 53-year old woman died and five of her family members, all from Tamil Nadu, sustained minor injuries after her son drove their car into a drainage ditch near the footpath on NICE Road near Kanakapura Road on Wednesday.

According to the traffic police, the group had come to Bengaluru for a vacation on account of Ramzan. "After visiting Bannerghatta National Park, they were going to Lulu Mall, when the accident occurred around 5.30 p.m.," the official said. He said there were no civic issues on the road and the accident was due to negligent driving.

A case has been registered at Thalaghattapura police station against car driver Suhail, 30.

Man arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladevanahalli police arrested Suhail, 20, on Thursday for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor.

The minor and her mother are residents of Chikkabanavara. According to the police, she told her mother about Suhail's assault and the mother lodged a complaint. The police nabbed the accused from Hebbal on Thursday. A case has been registered under POCSO Act.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Channaveeraiah S/o Late Ganganna Aged about 48 years R/a Siddaganga Mutt, Kyathsandra, Tumkur-572104 do hereby solemnly state that, my daughter correct Name is NEETU.C. This name reflects in all her official documents. But in her passport her name is mistakenly mentioned as **NITHU.** I further state that both these names **NEETU.C** and **NITHU** refers to same person i.e, my daughter only. I further state that she will continue as **NEETU C** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 02.04.2025 sworn to Notary.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/104/2025 Dated: 28.03.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of ROB in Lieu of LC No. 56 at Km: 92/600-700 with 1x30m composite Girder and 3x20m PSC Girder (Bengaluru-Honnavara Highway) +4x20 m PSC Girder (Benchagere village) and RCC Retaining wall (Approach span) between Nittur - Gubbi Stations in Tumakuru - Arsikere (TK-ASK) Sections. (Composite Tender) **(Tender Ref. No: ROB-LC-56-TK-ASK)**	Rs. 35,88,16,287/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 23.04.2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer / Construction / Works / Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/01/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 43 UBL 2024-25 Dated: 27.03.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-1:** S&T Estimate - Provision of Short shunting neck of 80 mtr. at Navalur (NVU) yard. **Sub Work-2:** Signalling works in connection with connecting old yard of Yalvigi to the newly constructed Yalvigi yard between Hubballi-Chikjajuru proposed yard arrangements at Yalvigi.	Rs. 76,58,333.31
2	Carrying out of following S&T works & associated Engineering and Electrical work: **1)** Provision of Intermediate Block Signaling (IBS) Between Lachyan - Tadwal (LHN-TVL) in Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG) Section over Hubballi Division. **2)** Provision of Intermediate Block Signaling (IBS) Between Nimbal-Indi Road (NBL-IDR) in Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG) Section over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 8,18,44,714.62

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28.04.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommuncation Engineer / Hubballi
PUB/03/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd,** the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **22.04.2025** for recovery of **Rs.86,70,456.68/-** (Rupees Eighty-Six Lakhs Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six and Paise Sixty-Eight only) due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd",** Secured Creditor from **Mrs. N. Lalitha** W/o. Mr. Chandrashekar B T, Residing at J-8, 3rd Cross Road, Lakshminarayana Puram, Near Corporation Market, Bashyam Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560021.
The reserve price is **Rs.37,00,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Seven lakhs only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.3,70,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventy Thousand only).
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Schedule A: All that piece and parcel of Residential flat bearing No.416, in Fourth Floor of Lilly Block in a residential apartment known as "EDEN BLOSSOMS" with a total super built up area of 1155 Sq.Ft and 450.45 Sq.ft of undivided share on the land situated in Sy No.33/1, bearing Khatha No, 134/471/33/1, at Gollahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and Bounded on : East By : BDA property, West by : 60 feet BDA Road, North By : BDA property, South By : 40 feet Road.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/Secured Creditor's website **i.e., www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction** also at the web portal **BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**
Statutory 15 days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
Date : 03.04.2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph: 080-280904182, 4541
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-05/ 2025-2026 dated: 03.04.2025**
Name of work	**Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 60kVA (40kVA + 20kVA) Modular UPS system at New GSAT 19 facility, IDSN Campus, ISTRAC Bengaluru.**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 23.66 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion	**03 months**
Period during which tender documents can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs. on 04.04.2025 to 19.04.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	**From 11.00 hrs. on 05.04.2025 to 20.04.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**21.04.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**22.04.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**24.04.2025 after 11.00 hours**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 47,320/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Group Head-CMG

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: 276/H/M/Dsl/IMS Dated: 28.03.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Re-Certification of Integrated Management System (IMS) which includes Quality Management System (QMS) i.e., ISO 9001:2015 or latest, Environmental Management System (EMS) i.e., ISO 14001:2015 or latest and upgradation of Safety Management Systems (SMS) i.e., ISO 45001:2018 or latest from existing OHSAS 18001 for Diesel Loco Shed, Hubballi.	Rs. 4,15,650/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 18.04.2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer / DSL / Hubballi
PUB/02/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public is hereby notified that my client, Ms. Um-E-Kulsoom Shariff has lost/misplaced the last page of the Original Sale Deed No. 13504/2003-04 dated 24-1-2004 in respect of the Site No.792 formed by BDA presently PID No.3217150402 measuring East-West: 9.00 Mtrs.,and North-South: 6.00., totally measuring 54.00 Sq. Mtrs.; situated at Further Extension of Anjanapura Layout, 10th Block, Bangalore. Thus Ms. Um-E-Kulsoom Shariff on behalf of Nasrulla Shariff lodged an online police complaint under Loss Report No.1533019/2025 dated 22/03/2025 regarding the loss of the aforesaid original document on 22/05/2024 with a request to find and return the same. It is hereby requested that if any one finds the aforesaid last page of the said document, the same may be handed over to the undersigned. In the event of not receiving any response to this notice within 15 days, the certified Copy of the lost document shall be treated as at par with the said documents.
Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru **CHANDAR K VITTAL,**
Date: 30-03-2025 Advocate
#130, 8th Main Road, AG S Layout, Arehalli, Bengaluru – 560061. Contact : 7259495959

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: 42 UBL 2024-25 Dated: 28.03.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Signalling works in connection with Hospet Juction: Provision of New Shunt Signals.	Rs. 1,95,81,203.15

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 29.04.2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Asst. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/E/Hubballi
PUB/05/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that, my client **Sri. Muniyappa.H,** S/o Kariyappa, aged about 52 years, r/at No.24AB, 5th B Cross, 2nd Railways Parallel Road, Near Domino Pizza, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560060, intend to purchase the Residential Property which is fully described in the schedule given hereunder, from **Smt. Pavana.C,** w/o A.Muralidhara, aged about 41 years, r/at No.1927, 4th Main Road, 2nd Cross Road, Near Police Quarters, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru-560060 and accordingly entered into an Agreement of Sale, dtd:26.03.2025.
Notice is hereby given to any person/Govt./Local Bodies/Banks claiming any right, title or interest over the said property may inform the same to my client's counsel stated below, in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice.
If objections are not received within that date my client will go ahead with the purchase and no further objection will be valid after that.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and **parcel of the Residential Property, bearing No.1927, 4th Main Road, 2nd Cross Road, Near Police Quarters, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru-560060,** BBMP Ward No.159, BBMP Khata No.907/1927/898 & New BBMP No.898, measuring East to West (51+50)/2 feet and North to South 27 feet, in total measuring 1365.5 Sq.ft, along with 26 Square RCC Roofed 3 floor residential building **and bounded on the :-** East by : Road; West by : Site No.1934; North by : Site No.1926/A & 1926; South by : Site No.1928.
G.R. Gangadhara, Advocate
431, 2nd Floor, Alankar Pearl Plaza, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009. Mob: +91 9740296679
Email : grgangadhara@gmail.com
Place: Bengaluru Date: 03.04.2025

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd,** the constructive/physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **22.04.2025,** for recovery of **Rs. 1,85,23,259.81/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Five Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine and Paise Eight One only)** due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd", Secured Creditor from (1) Mr. R Lingappa (Borrower)** S/o R Narasaiah, Near Ramaiah Thota, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur- 561203 **(2) Mrs. L Lalithamma, (Borrower)** W/o R Lingappa, Near Ramaiah Thota, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur-561203 **(3) Mr.D Jayaprakash, (Guarantor)** S/o D Kristappa, R/o Near Saraswathi School Road, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur- 561203 **(4) Mr K Govindappa,** S/o M.K Chinnaroddappa, D.No: C 82, Opp: Ganesha Temple, Karenahalli, Doddaballapur-561203. **(5) Nareshbabu (Borrower),** S/o R Lingappa, 141, Beside Cable Ramesh House Karenahalli, Doddaballapura, Karnataka-561203. **The reserve price will be Rs. 54,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs only)** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 5,40,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Fourty Thousand only).**
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Entire Residential Built up at Site No: K.No. 1110/1110/45, Sy No:45, Karenahalli Village, 11th Division 2nd ward, Doddaballapur Town and Taluk, approximately measuring 31 x 39 sft with an approximate plinth area of 759 sft each in ground, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors and bounded by: East By: House of D Kullayappa, West By : House of Anitha, North By: Road, South By : Site of Basavarajappa.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/ Secured Creditor's website i.e **www.kvb.co.in/Property** Under Auction also at the web portal **BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**
Statutory 15 Days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
Date : 03.04.2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore, Karnataka-560004.
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd,** the constructive/physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **24.04.2025, for recovery of Rs. 58,98,725.81/- (Rupees Fifty-Eight Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Five and Paisa Eight One only)** due to **"The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd",** Secured Creditor from **Mr. T R Abhishek,** S/o. Mr. V M Rudramurthy, Residing at No.36, 4th Block, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Behind SBI Bank, Malagala Main Road, Bangalore-560091. The reserve price will be **Rs.22,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty- Two Lakhs only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.2,20,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Twenty Thousand only).**
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat Bearing No. 402 in 4th Floor, (2BHK) at "Miyans Green Residency" Celebrity Lake View carved out in S.No. 56,72,73/2, 74/1 and 74/2 property No. 150200103200201171/240/112 and 150200103200201172/240/113, Site No.112 &113, present Henagara Grama Panchayat Certificate No. 7012796 situated at "Celebrity Lake View" of Rajapura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore- 560 102. Total site extent 5200.00 Sq.ft, super Built-up area of 1018 Sq.ft having 203 Sq.ft of Undivided share and Bounded on: East by Corridor, West by: Set Back, North by: Flat No.401, South by: Flat No.403.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/Secured Creditor's website i.e., **www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction also at the web portal BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**
STATUTORY 15 DAYS' NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
Date : 03.04.2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH
Divisional Office Building, No.6, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Flat No. 205, on the Second Floor measuring super built up area of 1145.00 sq feet, at "MIYANS GREEN RESIDENCY", situated on Site Bearing No. 112, present Village Panchayath Property No. 150200103200201171/240/112; dated: 30.03.2015, and on Site Bearing No. 113, present Village panchayath Property No. 150200103200201171/240/113 dated: 30.03.2015, formed in B.M.R.D.A approved layout situated at "CELEBRITY LAKE VIEW", carved out of survey Nos. 56,72,73/2,74/1 & 74/2 of Rajapura Village, Jinagi Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Bounded on the: East By: Set Back, West By: Corridor, North By: Set Back, South By: Lift and Staircase.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's/ Secured Creditor's website i.e **www.kvb.co.in/Property** Under Auction also at the web portal **BankAuctions.in/ForeclosureIndia.com** of the service provider, **M/s. 4 closure.**
Statutory 15 Days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
Date : 03.04.2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**

Compassion in primary healthcare: here's what it looks like in India

Cases from tribal, rural and urban India show how compassion helps deliver better care, drive responsiveness, and meet the public health needs of the community; understanding the compulsions of the patient will make every visit more productive and help people to overcome their fears of the system and social pressures

Mahima Jain

In January, the World Health Organization (WHO) published a report calling for compassion in primary healthcare systems. "Compassion – characterised by awareness, empathy, and action – is identified as a transformative force for PHC, driving quality care and health system transformation," the report read. "Compassionate primary healthcare means being responsive, adapting to the community's needs, and also includes a focus on quality, through training, audits, hand-holding, and on-the-job support," says Sanjana Brahmawar Mohan, physician and co-founder of Udaipur-based non-profit Basic Health Services (BHS).

India has an extensive primary healthcare system. There are sub-centres in remote areas serving 3,000-5,000 people, primary health centres (PHCs) serving 20,000-30,000 people, and community health centres (CHCs) for 80,000-120,000 people. In all there are 1.6 lakh sub-centres, 26,636 PHCs, and 6,155 CHCs, according to the National Health Mission.

Let us take a close look at three instances of compassion in health systems – one each in a rural, an urban, and a tribal area. In these examples, there are lessons for the rest of the country. They provide a sense of grounding, showing the importance of prioritising certain aspects at all times, but especially in a crisis, and call for the display of courage to carry forward.

Despite long-standing issues of underfunding and understaffing that have affected service delivery for decades, the existing infrastructure can meet varied needs by empowering its people to be responsive. Photograph used for representational purposes only. GETTY IMAGES

Clinical courage in Rajasthan

Vidith Panchal, a physician, sees hundreds of patients at Ravaj, a remote village in the tribal belt of Udaipur district. The PHC, called an Amrit clinic, is run by BHS. There are six such clinics serving close to 90,000 people in southern Rajasthan. Primary healthcare should connect with communities and understand their problems and their priorities, he says: "But [most] primary healthcare [services] in India lack that conversation with communities. That's the basic flaw."

Dr. Mohan wrote in a 2022 article in *BMJ GH Blogs*, "In India, a physician working at a PHC is entrusted with managing over 40 national health programmes, the operations of the PHC and 5 to 6 sub centres, attending and conducting training initiatives, meetings, documentation, and reporting, in addition to seeing patients at the PHC." Compassionate care is often difficult to provide in this setting.

Dr. Panchal gave the example of Tukaram (name changed), a 22-year-old who had had tuberculosis for nearly a decade. When Tukaram came to Dr. Panchal, he could barely walk, and he weighed only 23 kg. Dr. Panchal had seen hundreds of such patients across Rajasthan's PHCs, often in the mining districts. In 2023, India had a record 28 lakh TB cases, with 3 lakh deaths. Tukaram had also worked in mines for nearly a decade. His treatment across three States had resulted in no improvement. He had relapsed twice.

Physicians at PHCs usually refer such patients to a CHC or a district hospital. But this is usually 50-70 km away, Dr. Mohan said. The reasons for referral may be poor infrastructure, lack of lifesaving drugs, patient safety, medico-legal consequences, risk of community transmission or even evidence-based medicine. But compassionate care in this case might warrant managing the patient at the PHC. Dr. Panchal knew that referring Tukaram to a CHC or higher centre would only drain his health and pocket, so he made sure Tukaram's family was not exposed to TB and gave the young man access to pain relief medicines through his final months.

Dr. Mohan called Dr. Panchal's decision to put the patient's needs at the centre, "clinical courage." In the *BMJ GH Blogs* article, she wrote that administrative and clinical workload, support from reporting officers, support for clinical guidance, and capacity for support staff can build such courage and foster compassionate care. In Rajasthan, this can mean having community health workers accompany patients to referrals, especially when there are no family members; raising awareness of national programmes for TB and silicosis; ensuring diagnostics and drugs are accessible; making home visits and negotiating with families and patients; and so on.

The Amrit clinics have thus seen a rise in footfall: from around 40,000 patients in 2021 to 51,930 in 2024. The vast majority are members of Scheduled Tribes.

Dr. Mohan says that while compassion is central to the way BHS works, "dignity is perhaps the most important value that drives us and that is reinforced every day." She said BHS ensures staff at all levels are treated with dignity and respect, their talent is nurtured, and they are valued. This has had positive effects on patient interactions at all levels. "In the government, one sees compassion is missing: it is visible in the struggles and pressures of the auxiliary nurse midwives, the ASHAs [Accredited Social Health Activists]. If there was more compassion for them, things would be so different," she adds.

> A physician working at a PHC is managing 40 national health programmes, operations of the PHC and 5 to 6 sub centres, conducting training , and meetings, in addition to seeing patients at the PHC

Helping survivors of violence

Praveena Ben (43) is an ASHA worker in Borsan in Patan district, Gujarat. While she has served a community of over 800 people for nearly a decade, identifying and supporting survivors of violence were not part of her duties. Three years after she became an ASHA, Society for Women's Action and Training Initiatives (SWATI), an NGO working on violence prevention, offered her this training. She was taught to identify signs of abuse, have discreet conversations during fieldwork and home visits, and encourage them to seek help through the primary health system.

This training was useful during the COVID-19 pandemic, she says. Praveena could identify women facing domestic violence at home and convince them to seek help at the nearest sub-centre, where SWATI would send a counsellor. SWATI designed this "upward referral" chain to address the highly decentralised, multi-tiered rural health system in India.

By using existing infrastructure, the system aims to address violence against women as a public health issue, ensuring a compassionate response at every level of care. Since 2012, SWATI has worked with more than 400 ASHA workers and counsellors. A counsellor visits a sub-centre every few weeks or on demand. ASHAs are empowered to refer while keeping in mind a patient's needs, their relationships within communities, and the relevant national health policies. Sub-centres, also called 'Health and Wellness Centres' under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, are relatively closer to the survivors' homes and thus more accessible.

"At the sub-centre we only do the counselling," SWATI founder-director Poonam Kathuria said. For mediation and further intervention, women are referred to district hospitals, bypassing the PHCs. Ms. Kathuria said this ensures survivors are not revealed in the community, since PHCs are accessed and staffed by community members. ASHAs are able to address sensitive issues in a culturally appropriate manner, and create a safe space. This is crucial to reduce the fear and stigma associated with reporting violence. A multifaceted strategy must encompass systemic changes, resource allocation, and capacity building to effectively scale up the responsiveness and compassion demonstrated by ASHAs in addressing women's health and needs. Primary healthcare systems should be identified as a pivotal first stop for women, and gender-sensitive and trauma-informed care should be included in primary health protocols.

Tamil Nadu's health systems

University of Maryland research professor Monica Das Gupta has studied how public health systems in India and Sri Lanka are structured, and respond to disasters and epidemics. A 2019 paper she coauthored noted that the Centre has tasked many basic services, including aspects of sanitation and public health, to be devolved from line agencies to elected local bodies without strong mechanisms to ensure these bodies are held accountable for their services.

In an interview, Dr. Das Gupta uses the example of disaster management in India, which typically involves the army and administrative services rather than the health system. In Odisha and West Bengal, both prone to cyclones, these agencies are deployed to respond to disasters and to evacuate people. The army is well-versed in public health and sanitation measures. But the effectiveness of the response can vary depending on which authorities are involved. She recalled visiting some districts in eastern India after a cyclone where the local PHC focused on supplying chlorine but lacked broader engagement in disaster response. When asked about the overall death toll, they deferred to the police. Dr. Das Gupta adds that while the PHC staff was dedicated, they were not given training in public health measures to prevent disease outbreaks after a disaster, as are their counterparts in Tamil Nadu.

On the other hand, she lauded Tamil Nadu's disaster preparedness, emphasising that its public health staff undergoes annual epidemic training. This ensures that every level of the health system – from entomologists in Chennai to district health officers – knows exactly what to do during a disaster. During the 2004 tsunami, Tamil Nadu's health workers coordinated with other departments, ensuring proper disposal of dead bodies; timely removal of dead animals, fish, and fly control; followed by ensuring sanitary conditions in temporary housing for displaced populations and food safety checks on donated food supplies. Their preparedness is a result of continuous training and interdepartmental coordination, unlike their counterparts in many other States.

Chennai takes a considered approach to devolution that distributes responsibilities between line agencies, technical personnel, and elected representatives and is governed by the Chennai Municipal Corporation Act. Dr. Das Gupta explains that Tamil Nadu's system includes annual district-level meetings, where the roles of departments are clearly defined, leading to effective cooperation. Whereas other States struggle with fragmented management, lack of supervision, and ineffective delegation, Tamil Nadu succeeds through structured governance, accountability mechanisms, and proactive disaster response

People-centred healthcare

Two key takeaways of the WHO report were that compassionate human relationships, built on trust and mutual respect, are the bedrock of high-quality care delivery in primary healthcare systems and that when the levers of this system operate with compassion, they can effectively respond to the unique needs of different populations.

(Mahima Jain is an independent journalist covering the socio-economics of gender, environment and health. mhmajain@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Compassionate care can mean having community health workers accompanying patients to referrals; raising awareness of programmes for TB and silicosis; ensuring access to diagnostics and drugs; making home visits and negotiating with families and patients

BHS ensures staff are treated with dignity, and talent is nurtured. This has impacted patient care positively at all levels. 'In the government, one sees compassion is missing: it is visible in the struggles and pressures of auxiliary nurse midwives, ASHAs. If there was more compassion for them, things would be so different'

Women who might be facing abuse are referred to district hospitals, bypassing PHCs. This ensures survivors aren't revealed in the community, since PHCs are accessed and staffed by the community. ASHAs offer support and address sensitive issues in a culturally appropriate manner

Mothers being trained about the Kangaroo Mother Care concept at Coimbatore Medical College Hospital . FILE PHOTO

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

On maternal and neonatal health

Athira Elssa Johnson

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
What is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality worldwide?

QUESTION 2
At what stage of pregnancy do most maternal deaths occur?

QUESTION 3
What is the recommended period for exclusive breastfeeding for newborns?

QUESTION 4
True or False: Kangaroo mother care (skin-to-skin contact) can help premature babies regulate their body temperature and improve survival rates.

QUESTION 5
What does the Apgar Score assess in a newborn? Name any two factors.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Visual : Name the doctor in this visual who developed a scoring system to assess the health of newborns immediately after birth. FILE PHOTO

Conference

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Know your strength and weakness," urged C.R. Chandrashekar, founder and director of Samadhana Counselling Centre, as he spoke about the role of self-awareness and mental resilience in a fulfilling life. He was speaking at the inauguration of the International Conference on Peace and Harmony: Life Skills Education for a Better World, at Kristu Jayanti College on Thursday. Fr. Deepu Joy highlighted the role of life skills in daily life.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 04		
RISE	06:14	SET 18:31
RISE	11:19	SET 00:00
SATURDAY, APR. 05		
RISE	06:13	SET 18:31
RISE	12:19	SET 00:46
SUNDAY, APR. 06		
RISE	06:13	SET 18:31
RISE	13:18	SET 01:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	24
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	32	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty wiinds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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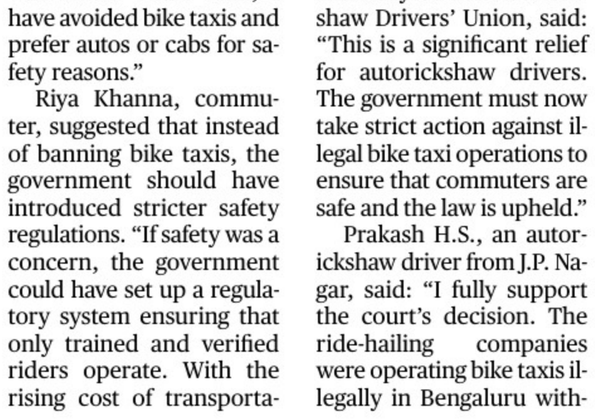
Commuters, bike taxi riders disheartened by HC order

They say absence of bike taxis will leave them at the mercy of autos that overcharge or refuse rides

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed Rapido, Ola, and Uber to stop operating their bike taxi services within six weeks.
FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka High Court's ruling on Wednesday to stop bike taxi operations within six weeks has left many daily commuters anxious, as they heavily relied on this affordable and efficient mode of transport for last-mile connectivity. It has also put the livelihoods of hundreds of bike taxi riders at risk.

While autorickshaw drivers have welcomed the judgment, citing the lack of a legal framework regulating bike taxis, regular passengers argue that the ban is unfair. Commuters claim that the absence of bike taxis will leave them with no option but to depend on autorickshaws, which often overcharge or refuse rides.

Manju Prasad, who frequently uses bike taxis, said: "Bike taxis were an affordable and quick solution, especially for office-goers who needed a ride from their homes to metro stations. With autos and cabs being significantly more expensive, this ban is a major setback."

Commuter Vikram Reddy voiced similar concerns, "Bike taxis provided a convenient alternative to the expensive autorickshaws and cabs. The government or court should have worked on a regulatory framework instead of imposing an outright ban. Now, we are left with fewer choices and higher fares."

Although many commuters found bike taxis to be a convenient way to navigate Bengaluru's heavy traffic, some expressed safety concerns. Pavithra Hegde shared her experience: "I used to rely on bike taxis, but a few months ago, a friend of mine met with an accident due to the rash driving of a bike taxi rider. He suffered serious injuries and was in the ICU for several days. Despite multiple complaints to the ride-hailing company, no action was taken. Since then, I have avoided bike taxis and prefer autos or cabs for safety reasons."

Riya Khanna, commuter, suggested that instead of banning bike taxis, the government should have introduced stricter safety regulations. "If safety was a concern, the government could have set up a regulatory system ensuring that only trained and verified riders operate. With the rising cost of transportation, bike taxis were a relief for many. A ban is not the right solution," she added.

Unions welcome move

Autorickshaw and cab drivers, who have consistently protested against bike taxi operations, have welcomed the High Court's ruling. Over the past few years, there have been multiple confrontations between bike taxi riders and auto drivers regarding operational rights.

Rudramurthy, general secretary of the Autorickshaw Drivers' Union, said: "This is a significant relief for autorickshaw drivers. The government must now take strict action against illegal bike taxi operations to ensure that commuters are safe and the law is upheld."

Prakash H.S., an autorickshaw driver from J.P. Nagar, said: "I fully support the court's decision. The ride-hailing companies were operating bike taxis illegally in Bengaluru without proper permits. Anyone could register as a bike taxi rider, which was against the law. This ruling restores order to the system."

Uncertain future

While autorickshaw drivers celebrate the decision, bike taxi riders are left in distress, fearing the loss of their primary source of income. Pankaj Kumar, a bike taxi rider for the past year, expressed his concerns. "There are thousands of bike taxi riders in Bengaluru whose livelihoods are now at stake. The court should have considered this before passing the judgment. I have no choice but to return to food delivery work," he said.

Adi Narayana, president of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, said: "Many bike taxi captains are coming to our office, unsure if they can continue working. We are trying to help them understand the harsh reality. Most have financial commitments such as loan repayments, rent, and daily household expenses. What will they do now? Will the government step in to assist them?" he asked.

With the ban set to take effect in the coming weeks, commuters and bike taxi riders are hoping that the government will step in with a legal framework or alternative solutions to address their concerns.

Ride hailing apps that operate bike taxis were not available for comment.

27,000 rule violations recorded on Namma Metro in six months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The most common violation is playing loud music on mobile phones, with 11,922 instances recorded

Routine security checks conducted by the Namma Metro's security squad from September 2024 to March 2025 have revealed 27,000 cases of rule violations by passengers, causing inconvenience to fellow commuters.

According to a release, the checks were carried out during non-peak hours, and though no penalties were imposed, strict warnings were issued to the offenders. The most common violation was playing loud music on mobile phones, with 11,922 instances recorded. Many passengers ignored the rule against using mobile phone speakers, disturbing others during their journey.

Another major concern was failure to offer priority seats to eligible passengers, including persons with disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant women, and those traveling with infants.

A staggering 14,162 cases of such incidents were reported, highlighting a lack of awareness and consideration among commuters, the release stated.

As many as 554 cases of passengers consuming food inside the metro were recorded, despite clear guidelines prohibiting it. Also, 474 violations involved passengers carrying oversized luggage were recorded, causing inconvenience in crowded coaches.

Though no fines were imposed, officials said it is important to adhere to the Namma Metro guidelines to ensure a smooth and pleasant commuting experience. "Security teams have been instructed to increase surveillance and enforce stricter measures if violations continue," officials added.

BMRCL authorities urged commuters to respect public transport norms, warning that repeat offenses could lead to introduction of penalties.

Woman from Bihar raped near K.R. Puram railway station

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two accused, identified as Asif and Syed, were arrested within hours of the incident

A woman from Bihar was allegedly raped near K.R. Puram railway station in Bengaluru in the early hours of Wednesday while she was with her brother. Two accused were arrested within hours of the incident.

According to the police, the woman was travelling from Kerala to Bihar. She had got down in Bengaluru and had asked her brother to help her board a train to Bihar.

The duo had walked out of the railway station and onto a service road nearby to buy food from an eatery. Two autorickshaw drivers allegedly followed them, assaulted the brother, and took the woman to a poorly-lit place where one of them, now identified as Asif, allegedly raped her.

The alleged incident took place between 1.20 a.m and 1.30 a.m. The other accused has been identified as Syed. The police said that many passers-by noticed the commotion and one of them called the police.

"On hearing the woman screaming, a person dialled 112. At that time, our Cheetah patrol team was near the spot. They caught Asif within a few minutes, while Syed escaped. Our team tracked him down and arrested him too," said Shivakumar Gunar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield).

Cases of rape and assault have been registered at Mahadevapura police station.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Deaths caused due to earthquake in Myanmar

3,085 The death toll from the earthquake that hit Myanmar nearly a week ago rose on Thursday to 3,085 as search and rescue teams found more bodies, the military-led government said. AP

Number of deaths reported in the Palestinian territory

1,163 The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Thursday that 1,163 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory since Israel resumed large-scale strikes on March 18. AFP

Number of hoax bomb calls received by Indian Airlines in 2024

728 Citing data from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said a total of 836 hoax bomb threats were received by airline operators since 2022 till March 25, 2025. PTI

Defence spending sought by the U.S. from all NATO allies

5 in per cent. NATO allies should commit to increasing their defence spending to at least 5% of their gross domestic product, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Thursday, as he stressed Washington's own continuing commitment to the alliance. REUTERS

Drones launched by Russia in an overnight attack on Ukraine

39 The Ukrainian air force said on Thursday that Russia launched 39 drones overnight. The air force shot down 28 drones and another seven did not reach their targets. REUTERS

COMPILED BY KUSHAL VARMA J.V.

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Why are undersea cables important?

What are undersea cables? How do they connect internet networks globally? What is India's subsea cable ecosystem? What are some of the challenges in laying the cables in India? Why is India considered vulnerable to disruptions? How can it be improved?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:
India is getting new cable landing systems coming online gradually. The latest addition is Airtel's 2Africa Pearls system, which has investments from Facebook parent Meta, adding 100 terabits per second of capacity to India's international bandwidth. Earlier this year, the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable was also landed in Chennai and Mumbai.

What are undersea cables?
Undersea cables are the main link connecting the world's internet networks. They connect internet service providers and telecom operators everywhere with those in other countries. These cables are a few inches thick and are heavily padded to withstand the hostile environment of the sea floor. Inside, strands of fiber optic cable – similar to those that connect modern telcos' towers and routers – provide massive capacity for large volumes of data to quickly crisscross the earth.

At each "landing point," usually a manhole covered with a lid and then topped with sand, these cables make landfall and go further inland to connect to a "landing station," where they become accessible to major networks. These systems are critical to the modern information society. "There are about 600 cables, as per Goldman Sachs," said Amajit Gupta, CEO of Lightstorm, a network provider at the first Sub-Sea Cable Systems Conference in Delhi. "90% of data, 80% of world trade, and about $10 trillion of financial transactions, as well as secure government information, move through these cables. That's the impact this infrastructure has."

Each modern cable has several hundred gigabits per second of capacity, and can support thousands of telecom users. The other side of undersea cables is terrestrial networks, the less well-mapped network of cables and towers that bring connectivity from the coast to people.

Powering up: More cables land in Singapore, a small city-state, than they do in all of India. FILE PHOTO

Does India have enough undersea cables?
India has two major hubs of cable landing sites: Mumbai and Chennai. "Practically speaking, 95% of subsea today goes into a small six-kilometre patch in Versova, Mumbai," Mr. Gupta said.

Many of the cables connected to Chennai also land in Mumbai. In total, 17 cable systems land at some point in India. India also has two domestic cable systems – the Chennai Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI) cable to provide high-speed connectivity to the islands, and the Kochi Lakshadweep Islands project.

Cables take several months, even years, to plan out and lay, at a cost of millions of dollars. Most cables in countries with well-developed internet infrastructure are able to commission capacity years before it is required. As such, most international internet traffic in India is largely served by existing capacity.

Anil Tandan, the Director General of the Broadband India Forum, said that this may not hold forever. "Well, there are differences of opinion," Mr. Tandan said of the existing cable infrastructure's sufficiency. "The capacity may be adequate at this moment of time, but the way the data [traffic] is growing, one has to keep in mind that the capacity may not be adequate as we go along."

Aruna Sundararajan, a former Union IT and Telecom Secretary and current chairperson of the BIF, said, "It is significant to note that India's share presently constitutes around 1% and 3% respectively for cable landing stations and subsea cable systems" respectively.

What are some risks surrounding undersea cable deployment in India?
More cables land in Singapore, a small city-state, than they do in all of India, making India vulnerable to the consequences of cable cuts at sea. "If there is a disruption at the Red Sea, it pretty much brings down 25% of India's Internet in our estimate," Mr. Gupta said. "It's not a theory because it just happened about two years back." He was referring to the cuts that brought down subsea cables in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, likely caused by strikes by Houthi rebels in Yemen. That strait is a critical narrow passage through which dozens of subsea cables pass.

These cuts – some of which happened in 2024 – have not destabilised India's internet experience so far, thanks to excess capacity built into other networks. But that may not always be the case. If several cables in the Red Sea are damaged, large parts of the internet may stop working, and there is only so much data that can be rerouted through other cable systems.

"Traditionally, most subsea corridors strangely have followed the trade routes of the past," Mr. Gupta said. "Rarely have subsea routes been built which are different from shipping routes, because back in the day, it was easier to follow the trade routes to be able to lay down your cables and make it work."

What can be done to bolster India's subsea cable infrastructure?
For one, the companies laying subsea cables complain of excessive permissions needed to land a single cable in India. "By last count, about 51 permissions were needed, beyond just the Department of Telecom, including the Home Ministry, Department of Fisheries, the Environment Ministry, local municipalities," and so on, Mr. Gupta said.

"If I have an 8,000-mile point-to-point transoceanic system starting tomorrow, I can guarantee you where I'm going to spend 80% of my time and effort," said Scott Cowling, a senior Meta executive who manages the social media conglomerate's global network infrastructure. "And that's going to be in 24 miles of territorial waters at either end."

In addition to streamlining regulations, securing these cables is also important. "Fishing trawlers break my cables all the time," complained Rahul Vatts, Bharti Airtel's chief regulatory officer.

India depends on foreign repair vessels with long permission processes for them to begin work in Indian waters. "India currently does not have the requisite subsea cable repair ships and cable storage depot capacity that we need," Ms. Sundararajan said, calling for more domestic investment in cable repair capabilities.

THE GIST

- India has 17 international cable systems, mainly landing in Mumbai and Chennai, along with two domestic cable systems connecting island territories. However, its share in global subsea cable infrastructure remains low.
- India's internet is highly dependent on a few key landing sites, making it vulnerable to disruptions such as Red Sea cable cuts. Fishing trawlers and the lack of domestic cable repair ships further threaten network stability.
- Laying undersea cables in India requires around 51 permissions from various authorities, delaying projects. Experts call for regulatory reforms, more cable landings, and local investment in repair and maintenance facilities.

What challenges does Greenland's new PM face?

Why was Greenland's 2025 election significant?

Padmashree Anandhan
Abhiruchi Chowdhury

The story so far:
After Greenland's March elections, Jens-Frederik Nielsen was elected as the new Prime Minister. The election results, announced on March 12, saw the Demokraatit party gain seven seats, rising from three to ten seats in Parliament, while the ruling Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA) and Siumut coalition lost 11 seats. The Greenland elections drew attention after U.S. President Donald Trump claimed his intention to buy the island.

What is Greenland's political system?
Greenland is a self-governing territory of Denmark with a population of roughly 57,000 people. It has a parliamentary democracy, and elections for its 31-seat unicameral Parliament (Inatsisartut) are held every four years. Members are elected through a proportional representation vote. To assume power, the government must pass a vote of confidence, which is referred to as positive parliamentarism. The elected members, however, do not have the full authority to take decisions on issues related to defence, constitution, citizenship, and fiscal policy. The five main political parties in Greenland are the centre-right Demokraatit, Naleraq, and Atassut, and the left-wing IA and Siumut. The Siumut and Inuit Ataqaitigiit have always dominated the political landscape of Greenland. However, for the first time, the Demokraatit party has won the election, breaking the dominance of the traditional parties.

What were the key electoral issues?
One of the primary concerns for voters was independence. Four out of five political parties in Greenland have a consensus on gaining independence from Denmark. Demokraatit described independence as a "necessity" in its manifesto, expressing openness to a "free association" model with the U.S. or Denmark.

Another issue was access to healthcare. Greenland's healthcare system lacks adequate staff, especially in remote areas. The Demokraatit party called for changes in the healthcare sector so that most of the funds are diverted towards care and support rather than administration.

The third key concern was frustration over the fishing industry. Demokraatit's victory was also the result of the discontent in the fishing sector after the previous government passed a law that impacted seafood exports, which account for 30% of Greenland's total exports.

What are the internal and external challenges for the new PM?
Stabilising the economy will be Mr. Nielsen's big challenge, given its narrow base. The island relies on fisheries, which comprise 90% of total exports and are vulnerable to market fluctuations and climate change. Mr. Nielsen must find alternate revenue sources through mining and tourism without neglecting the environment and excluding local communities. He also needs to improve public services, especially in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Greenland's social welfare system reeks of substance abuse and unemployment. Tackling these issues within a new coalition government, which has varied views on independence, will be a challenge.

Externally, Mr. Nielsen must maneuver through the intense geopolitical situation. The island's strategic location has drawn attention from major powers such as China, the U.S., and Russia, each viewing the region as geoeconomically and geostrategically significant. This was evident in U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance's recent visit, during which he suggested that Greenland would be better protected under U.S. control rather than Denmark's. While Denmark holds the sovereign link, Mr. Nielsen must carefully manage relations with both Denmark and the U.S. to advance Greenland's autonomy while continuing to benefit from Danish financial support. He must also take a cautious approach toward China's economic investments, particularly regarding access to Greenland's rare earth minerals. The ultimate challenge will be navigating between the West and Russia. He needs to balance the country's foreign policy at a time of Russian forays in the Arctic, without triggering concerns among Western countries, while boosting NATO-Arctic presence. Therefore, adopting a diplomatic strategy will be crucial for Mr. Nielson.

The authors are researchers at the Area Studies-Europe, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

THE GIST

- The centre-right Demokraatit party secured 30% of the votes in the 2025 election, gaining seven seats and breaking the dominance of Inuit Ataqatigiit and Siumut.
- The new Prime Minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, must navigate geopolitical tensions, particularly between Denmark, the U.S., and other global powers.

Construction of new RGUHS campus at Ramanagara to be completed by December-end

30% of work on the new campus has been completed and the remaining is in full swing; administration of RGUHS will be completely shifted to the new building : Sharan Prakash Patil

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The new campus and medical college of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), coming up in Ramanagara, will be completed by December-end 2025, said Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil.

During an interaction at *The Hindu* office on Thursday, he said 30% of the work of the new campus has been completed and the remaining work is in full swing. "The deadline has already been given to the contractors to complete the work of the medical college building and campus by December end. After that, the administration of RGUHS will be completely shifted to the new building," he said.

Minister of Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil at an interaction with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Amended act

In 2006, the RGUHS Act was amended to shift the RGUHS campus to Ramanagara from Bengaluru. However, various reasons, including farmers going to court seeking more compensation, had stalled this process, said the Minister. "But now the construction work is progressing well. This is a project of about ₹600 crore and there is no shortage of funds," he added. Last year, the government, which had announced opening new government medical colleges in Ramanagara and Kanakapura, has now taken steps to start a college only in Ramanagara. "We have not submitted a proposal for Kanakapura this year," Dr. Patil said.

"It has been decided to start the college in the building of the district hospital that is already functioning in Ramanagara. Once the NMC comes and inspects it, the recruitment of necessary staff, including faculty, will be completed. However, many more processes need to be completed for the establishment of a government medical college in Kanakapura. Therefore, a government medical college will be started in Ramanagara from 2025-26," he explained.

Appointment of directors

Dr. Patil said directors would be appointed soon for Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research and Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, who currently only have temporary posting.

"Some changes are being made in the recruitment rules, and a meeting in this regard will be held on April 17. Then fresh applications will be called for the director post. Action will also be taken soon for the appointment of the director of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology too," he explained.

Cabinet to decide on retirement age

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to increase the retirement age of super speciality doctors from 60 to 65. A decision in this regard will be taken in the Cabinet, said Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil.

"Specialists in other subjects take eight years to complete the course. However, super-speciality doctors take 11 years. Therefore, we have decided to fix the retirement age of super-speciality doctors at 65. The government has decided to start super speciality hospitals across the State, which requires a large number of specialists. Therefore, the retirement age will be increased," he said.

Gold trader from Ballari carried out hawala transactions for Ranya: DRI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), probing the gold smuggling case involving actor Ranya Rao, has claimed that arrested Sahil Sakariya Jain, gold trader from Ballari, was not only helping her sell the smuggled gold but was also facilitating hawala transactions in Bengaluru and Dubai, laundering money for buying gold in Dubai and later the profits she made by selling it in Karnataka.

With this, the agency seems to be completing a full circle – establishing the alleged trail of both gold and money, in the case.

Sahil is not a new name in gold smuggling rings, sources said. It has now come to light that he was arrested by DRI in a similar gold smuggling case in 2020 when a mule was allegedly smuggling gold from Bangladesh to Mumbai and allegedly delivering it to Sahil. He was released on bail after spending over 50 days in judicial custody, in the case.

Actor Ranya Rao

Documents submitted by DRI in the court claimed that during interrogation Sahil reportedly accepted that he had helped Ranya sell 49.6 kg of allegedly smuggled gold worth ₹40.13 crore and transferring ₹38.39 crore to Dubai, purportedly to import gold to Dubai, and ₹1.73 crore to Ranya in Bengaluru, purportedly as her share of profits after selling the smuggled gold, through hawala transactions.

'Hawala money'

DRI has also said the ₹2.67 crore cash seized from Ranya's Lavelle Road residence on March 4, following her arrest on March 3, "is likely hawala money received by her as profit from purchasing gold in Dubai and selling it in Bengaluru". Sahil reportedly got a commission of ₹55,000 for every such hawala transaction he allegedly facilitated.

The DRI petition before the court, said one Avinash, introduced Ranya to Sahil in November 2024. The petition details four transactions since then that Sahil allegedly helped Ranya in.

In November 2024, DRI claimed Sahil assisted Ranya in sending ₹6.5 crore to Dubai through a hawala transaction and later helped her dispose of 8.9 kg of gold worth ₹6.82 crore and aided her transfer the difference amount of ₹32.46 lakh in Bengaluru, again through a hawala transaction.

Similarly, in December 2024, he allegedly helped her to send ₹9.64 crore to Dubai, then disposed of 12.61 kgs of gold worth ₹9.94 crore and aided her transfer the difference amount of ₹30.34 lakh in Bengaluru.

Sahil allegedly helped Ranya in two other transactions in 2025, before she was arrested in March. In January 2025, DRI claimed he assisted her in sending ₹11 crore to Dubai and later helped her dispose of 14.5 kg of gold worth ₹11.55 crore and aided her transfer the difference amount of ₹55 lakh in Bengaluru.

Similarly, in February 2025, he allegedly assisted Ranya in sending ₹11.25 crore to Dubai and later helped her dispose of 13.43 kg of allegedly smuggled gold worth ₹11.8 crore and later aided her transfer the difference amount of ₹55.81 lakh in Bengaluru, through hawala transactions.

These claims by DRI indicate that Ranya, except for one trip was allegedly smuggling over 12 kg of gold per trip, making a profit of anywhere between ₹30 lakh and ₹55 lakh per trip.

Trip to Dubai

In documents submitted by DRI to the courts earlier, the agency had claimed that Ranya made 23 trips to Dubai between 2023 and 2025. DRI's submissions made to the court are not clear yet as to whether Sahil was the only conduit for hawala transactions and to sell smuggled gold or there were others, as the documents don't give details of earlier trips and transactions flagged by the agency in previous documents.

Two held with mobile phones stolen from IPL fans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two, including a minor boy, were apprehended with stolen mobile phones at Cubbon park metro station by the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force personnel deployed for crowd management for the IPL league fixture at Chinnaswamy Stadium, on Wednesday. According to a release, the two had seven mobile phones in their possession, which they had stolen from fans. The minor aged 12 and Sanjit, 23, both hailing from Jharkhand, were detained by the security personnel and later handed over to the Cubbon park police.

Forest Dept. captures leopardess that strayed into house at Jigani

The animal that entered a house in Jigani, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A leopardess that had strayed into a house in Jigani on Thursday was captured by the Forest Department officials.

The animal strayed into the house at around 6.30 a.m. and upon spotting the big cat, the residents, a couple and their son, ran out of the house and locked the main door. While the leopardess remained trapped inside the house in a residential area in Jigani, which is located on the outskirts of Bengaluru, neighbours alerted the police and the department officials.

On confirming the leopardess's presence, the officials went into the house and captured it after tranquillising it. They later put the leopardess in a cage and took it to the Bannerghatta National Park.

Alert residents

"We were successful in capturing the leopardess which entered the house. The alert residents of the house managed get out and lock the door in the nick of time," said Bengaluru South Division ACF V. Ganesh.

He added that the leopardess after straying into the residential area did not attack anyone and hid inside the house.

The leopardess will be kept at the Bannerghatta National Park from where it will be released into the wild.

BBMP budget approved without changes in outlay

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The civic budget was presented by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on March 29

The civic budget Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) presented on March 29, with an outlay of ₹19,930.64 crore for the current fiscal 2025-26 has been approved without any changes in the outlay by the Urban Development Department. However, UDD has directed a few changes in the budget programme.

The budget was approved on March 31 and *The Hindu* has accessed a copy of the letter written by the Additional Chief Secretary, UDD to the Commissioner, BBMP.

The letter said the budget outlay for 2025-26 was ₹1806.66 crore more than what is allowed as per BBMP (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Rules, 2021 compared to last year's budget size.

However, considering additional funding from the State government, external funding from the World Bank, programmes to plug leakage, expanding the tax base, Premium FAR and new advertising policies to be implemented in 2025-26, the budget outlay has been approved, without any changes, the letter said.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 03.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the work. The details of the tender is as below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs) ExcludingGST	EMD (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Bio-mining of legacy waste at SWM Landfill site at Subba rayanapalya Bengaluru.	646.02	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.5,50,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	6 Months
2	Bio-Mining of Legacy waste at SWM Landfill Site, Dodda bidarakallu, Bengaluru.	190.56	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e- payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs. 1,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	4 Months

1) Tender Pre Bid meeting : **17.04.2025 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **2)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **03.05.2025 before 16:00 hrs. 3)** Opening of Technical Bid: **05.05.2025 after 16:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/71/2025-26
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

BIHAR MUSEUM, PATNA
(An Autonomous Society under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Government of Bihar)
Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna-800001
Govt. of Bihar

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SELECTION OF A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY AGENCY TO IMPLEMENT A CONVERSATIONAL AI USE-CASE FOR BIHAR MUSEUM, PATNA.

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed agencies under "Two-bid" system - Technical Bid (un-priced) and Financial Bid (priced) For the selection of a specialist technology agency to implement a conversational AI use-case for Bihar Museum, Patna (An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Govt. of Bihar, Registered under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860).

Tender Document complete in all respects in a sealed envelope is to be submitted by Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier or by hand at the office of the Director General, Bihar Museum, Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna – 800001 before due date and time. The tenders received late/tenders without Processing Fee/Conditional tenders/Incomplete Tenders in any respect would be rejected. The Director General, Bihar Museum, Patna reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Important Dates for the selection process:

(i) Last date for submission of Tender - 25/04/2025 up to 03.00 p.m.
(ii) Date of opening Technical Bid - 25/04/2025 at 04.00 p.m.
(iii) Date for Presentation - Will be informed.
(iv) Date of opening Financial Bid - Will be informed.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	For the selection of a specialist technology agency to implement a conversational AI use -case for Bihar Museum, Patna	As Quoted by Bidder (inclusive of all taxes).	5,00,000/-	10000/-	08 months;

1.Other information can be obtained and downloaded from the website http://biharmuseum.org / http://prdbihar.gov.in / https://state.bihar.gov.in/yac.
For further details please visit website **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 00228 (ART) 2025-26
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।
(Additional Director-Admin)
Bihar Museum

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT
प्रगतेः मूलं प्रकृतिः
(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Nehru Nagar, P.B. No. 357, Bhopal - 462003 (M.P.), India

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT (DPM)
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BATCH 2025

IIFM, Bhopal, a premier sectoral management institute invites applications for its **Doctoral Programme in Management (PhD programme) 2025**. For information on eligibility for admission, fellowship and other details, please visit the programme website at **www.iifm.ac.in/DPM**. The last date for submission of the application is 30.04.2025. The online application portal shall be active from 03.04.2025.

M.P. Madhyam/119521/2025 **CHAIRPERSON - DPM**

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

BEL achieves record turnover of Rs.23,000 Crores

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has achieved a turnover of around Rs.23,000 Cr (Provisional & Unaudited), during the Financial Year 2024-25, against the previous year's turnover of Rs.19,820 Cr registering a growth of 16%. This includes Export sales of around US$ 106 Million during FY 2024-25, as against the previous year's export turnover of US$ 92.98 Million, registering a growth of 14%. In the fiscal year 2024-25, BEL secured orders worth Rs.18,715 Cr. Some of the major orders received during the year are BMP II Upgrade, Ashwini Radar, Software Defined Radios, Data link, Multi-Function Radars, EON 51, Seekers, Anti Drone System, Airport Surveillance Radar, Sonar Upgradation, Flycatcher spares, Radar upgradation, Spares and Services, etc, and other projects in Non-defence sector. With this, the total Order Book of BEL as on April 1st, 2025, stands at around Rs.71,650 Cr including Export Order Book of USD 359 Million. Shri Manoj Jain, Chairman & Managing Director, BEL, said: "BEL strives to attain self-reliance through enhanced Indigenisation efforts, expansion and modernisation, outsourcing to Indian Industries including MSMEs & Start-ups. BEL has rolled out strategies to maximise its global outreach and footprint in International market segments in the coming years. All these efforts will help BEL to retain its market leadership position in the Strategic Electronics sector."

TTK Prestige partners with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) : Launches 'Knight Bite' – A Digital Series That Serves Up Food, Fun, and Cricket!

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are taking fan engagement to the next level with Knight Bite, an exciting new digital IP that brings fans closer to their favourite players through food. To launch this initiative, KKR has partnered with TTK Prestige, India's leading kitchen appliances brand, for #Let'sGetCooking with Knight Bite–a five-episode digital series premiered on March 30. Hosted by celebrity Chef Kunal Kapur, the show offers fans a behind-the-scenes look at KKR players as they cook, chat, and take on fun kitchen challenges, revealing a whole new side of them. "Our partnership with TTK Prestige is more than just a collaboration - it's a celebration of Indian culture and the shared passions that unite our fans beyond cricket," says Binda Dey, Group CMO of Knight Riders Sports. Speaking on the collaboration Mr. Venkatesh Vijayaraghavan- MD & CEO, TTK Prestige said, "Cricket and food have a way of bringing people together, and 'Knight Bite' is a perfect fusion of both. At TTK Prestige, we've been a part of Indian kitchens for decades, making cooking effortless and enjoyable for generations. This collaboration with KKR allows us to reimagine the kitchen as a space of fun, energy, and shared experiences–just like the game itself. Watching players step off the field and into the kitchen, taking on challenges with camaraderie and humour, makes this series truly special, and we're thrilled to be a part of it. Knight Bites gives fans a rare, unfiltered glimpse of KKR players beyond the cricket pitch. With TTK Prestige's cutting-edge kitchen appliances in action, the show transforms cooking into an engaging and entertaining experience, filled with humour, camaraderie, and friendly competition.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Empuraan*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Freedom of expression and the Kerala controversy over *Empuraan*

The outrage over *Empuraan* stems from a Hindu nationalist assumption that the Gujarat riots were a justified reaction, despite documentation proving otherwise; it resists false equivalence, challenges majoritarian logic, and brings to public memory what is being rapidly erased

Nissim Mannathukkaren

The huge national hate campaign forcing Malayalam film *Empuraan* to make 24 cuts after release is yet another demonstration of the fact that the cultural space in India now can accord freedom of speech only when it is in sync with the official ideology.

Freedom of expression has always been subject to depredations from all political parties but what is distinct in the last decade is the unprecedented nature of the attacks (seen in the killings of right-wing critics Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, M. M. Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh) and that these go beyond the political realm and stem from a deeply solidifying religious majoritarian cultural common sense. What *Empuraan*, a technically superior but otherwise cinematically poor work of art, does is to disturb this, even if it is done in a politically superficial and formulaic manner.

Nevertheless, this has powerfully threatened the majoritarian common sense, provoking virulent reactions. An article in the RSS mouthpiece *Organiser* calls the film an "anti-Hindu and anti-Bharat narrative," which is repeated across the Hindu nationalist ecosphere. The commercial Indian film industry, especially Bollywood, has become weak-kneed in front of the ruling dispensation to such an extent that not only has it abstained from remotely criticising the ruling government, but is producing blatant propagandist films extolling the ruling ideology. In this climate of grave pusillanimity, *Empuraan*'s depiction of Gujarat "riots" becomes arguably the bravest act by a mainstream Indian big-budget film.

Ironically, Hindu nationalist supporters demand complexity and nuance in *Empuraan*, when the BJP governments have promoted films like the *Kerala Story* (among over 20 recent propaganda films), with claims of a staggering 32,000 women from Kerala being converted to Islam and recruited to the Islamic State, when the actual number was three. The Supreme Court intervened to note that the claim was not factual. The demand for *Empuraan*, which shows the Godhra Sabarmati Express train fire which killed 59 Hindu Karsevaks, to be more explicit by showing a Muslim mob burning the coach, is based on a commonly held and dangerously wrong Hindu nationalist assumption. Which is, the riots that followed were a justifiable moral "reaction" of ordinary citizens to the "action" of the tragic train killings, rather than punishing the accused by law.

The fundamental problem with the discourse around *Emupraan* stems from the above misconception. But it was, in actuality, as has been documented copiously in media reports and academic research, majoritarian mobs attacking a religious minority with the condonation or approval of authorities, thus making it a pogrom. Hence, scholar Ashutosh Varshney, who has extensively studied Hindu-Muslim violence, terms Gujarat 2002 as the "first full-blooded pogrom in independent India" (he calls the 1984 Sikh massacre a semi-pogrom).

A false equivalence cannot be drawn between a Muslim mob killing 59 Hindus and a retaliatory pogrom which killed 1,100 people (including 200 Hindus) – with unofficial estimates at 2,000 – and displaced 1,00,000 Muslims to refugee camps. The film resists this false equivalence. The present generation may not know that Maya Kodnani, a Cabinet Minister in Gujarat, was initially sentenced to 28 years after the courts termed her the "kingpin" of a mob that killed 97 people. She was later acquitted in 2018, but Babu Bajrangi, Bajrang Dal leader, convicted for the same crime, was not (a similar figure is *Empuraan's* antagonist). While Hindu nationalist supporters are aghast at the depiction of the rape of a woman, evoking Bilkis Bano, in the film, it is only recently that the Gujarat government shockingly released the convicts who had gangraped Bano and killed seven family members including her child. One of the convicts, on release, appeared on stage with a BJP MP and MLA. The Supreme Court had to step in to rule the remission as unlawful and send the convicts back to jail.

The demand that the Godhra accused be shown in the film must be considered against the fact that the case is among the most contentious, with different official commissions coming to different conclusions. Thirty-one people were convicted. But the Gujarat High Court ruled in 2017 that it was not a case of terrorism (despite 15 years of right-wing propaganda claiming so, and even the recent propagandist film *Sabarmati Report* calling it "India's 9/11") and commuted all the death sentences. Critically, the Supreme Court has yet to give a final verdict on the petitions of the convicted prisoners, 23 years later.

When the outrage against *Empuraan* claims that it vilifies the "entire Hindu community" (*Organiser*), the film, unlike Hindutva propaganda films which universally demonise Muslims, portrays a Hindu woman who loses her life protecting Muslims under attack, features a Hindu woman protagonist, and against the claims of "whitewashing Islamic terrorism" depicts Islamist terror training camps in Pakistan and children being saved from other camps.

'Majoritarian logic'

While the threats to freedom of expression have been nationwide, *Empuraan*'s cuts are unprecedented in Kerala, where all political ideologies have been ruthlessly critiqued in films, including in *Empuraan*, where especially the Communist party has been mocked. As the episode shows, Kerala is not immune to the sway of religious majoritarian logic. This logic is aided by the secular opposition's double standards, for instance, when the Left silently intimidated a film critical of it (written by the same scriptwriter of *Empuraan*), a tactic now taken to a new, brazen, societal level by the Right. The muted response of the Malayalam film industry to the current controversy is telling.

The spectacular growth of Hindutva in Kerala's civil society has been hidden from outside due to its poor electoral record, which itself has seen a drastic shift with the BJP-led NDA's parliamentary vote share increasing from 6.5% to nearly 20% in 15 years. This growth seeks to craft a new politics, like incorporating the Christian community into the majoritarian logic. Another *Organiser* article claimed that *Empuraan* is also against Christianity and Jesus Christ.

Empuraan rightly hints at the global shadow networks and mafias influencing domestic politics, but ultimately, its critique of the communalist scourge is not sufficiently invested in democratic politics with individual revenge and violence tropes, which might in fact reinforce the majoritarian logic. Of course, to expect beyond this from a film that seeks a pan-India massified audience, and in the process losing what is unique to Malayalam cinema, is wishful.

The Czech writer Milan Kundera, resisting Communist state authoritarianism, had written, "the struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting." *Empuraan*'s sole contribution is to place in popular memory what is being rapidly erased as a part of the majoritarian logic.

Nissim Mannathukkaren is with Dalhousie University, Canada, and is on X @nmannathukkaren

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

April 4 is the 76th birthday of NATO, the organisation looming in the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This quiz looks back on its storied history

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The construction of the _____ ____ in 1961 tested the strength of the alliance between European countries and the U.S. One important outcome was France withdrawing from NATO's Military Command Structure in 1966. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

One of NATO's controversial actions was its bombing of the Federal Republic of X in 1999. NATO members disagreed over whether the attack required UN approval, with those against contending that NATO's potency lies in being able to sidestep Russia's and China's approval at the UN Security Council. Name X.

QUESTION 3

A specific event in the early 2000s, known popularly as X, caused NATO to invoke Article 5 of its charter for the first and so far the last time in its history. Article 5 defines Y, an important reason for NATO's existence and which as a concept stipulates that an attack against one NATO country should be construed as an attack against all NATO countries. Name X and Y.

QUESTION 4

In 2012, the Prime Minister of which country considered invoking NATO's Article 5 owing to spillover of conflict from the Syrian civil war? While he didn't invoke it in the end, NATO launched and has since maintained Operation Active Fence to protect this country against attacks from within Syria.

QUESTION 5

Name the country that, while being a founding member of NATO, disallows permanent peacetime bases and nuclear warheads on its territory. At the same time, it has allowed the U.S. to maintain the latter's northernmost base of its Armed Forces, in Avannaata municipality.

Visual Question:
Identify this Roman historian. His book '*Bellum Catilinae*' is the source of NATO's motto, often translated in English as "a mind unfettered in deliberation". PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. On June 11, 1665, Shivaji signed a treaty with Jai Singh. **Ans: Treaty of Purandar**
2. Shivaji had an older brother who died as part of a failed rebellion. **Ans: Sambhaji**
3. Name Shivaji's half-brother who ruled Tanjore on his behalf? **Ans: Venkoji (also known as Ekoji)**
4. Name the Maharashtrian scholar who retrieved the first painting of Shivaji from the British archives. **Ans: Vasudev Sitaram Bendre**
5. What is the name of Shivaji's tutelary (family) deity? **Ans: Tulaja Bhavani**
Visual: What is this instrument? And what is the significance? **Ans: Wagh Nakh. It is the tiger claw-shaped weapon Shivaji used during his fight with Afzal Khan**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Dodo Jayaditya | Piyali Tuli | Lekshmy Harikumar

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"HAPPY New Year!"

"A Happy New Year to you too, dude!"

"Dude?"

"That's right, 'dude'! The way Americans pronounce it, it rhymes with 'rude', 'crude' and 'mood'. Do you know what 'dude' means?"

"Well, I have heard it being used in Hollywood films very often. They keep saying 'Hey dude!', or 'What's up dude?!' But I have no idea what it means."

"It means a 'guy'!"

"Guy! So, any male can be called a dude?"

"Well. Let's put it this way. Any male can be referred to as a 'dude'."

"For example, I can walk up to you and say, 'How's life dude?' But I wouldn't do that with my boss or my father."

"So, you wouldn't call your boss a 'dude' to his face?"

"Certainly not! He would probably think I was being disrespectful. But if I were talking about my boss with you, I could refer to him as a 'dude'. For example, I could say, 'The dude playing the guitar is my boss'."

"Can I say, 'The dude wearing the grey kurtha is my father'?"

"You certainly can. And speaking of your father, when is he returning from Europe?"

"Next week. But I wish he will return tomorrow."

"I wish he would return tomorrow."

"'Would return' and not 'will return'?"

"Yes, that's right. You see, whenever you use 'wish', you never use the future tense. You cannot say, 'I wish I will pass the exam.' It is wrong. You have to say, 'I wish I could pass the exam.'"

"I see. Is it okay to say, 'I wish I could fly like Superman'?"

"Yes. 'I wish I could bat like Tendulkar'."

"Who wouldn't! He's such a cool dude."

"Well, I'd better get back home and study. I have a test tomorrow."

"A test tomorrow! But tomorrow is the first day of school after the Christmas break."

"Tell that to my chemistry teacher. Even during the vacation, I've been setting the alarm for 4:30."

"A.l.a.r.m has only two syllables in it. The first syllable 'a' is like the 'a' in 'China' and the second syllable 'larm' rhymes with the words 'harm', 'charm' and 'calm'. The stress is on the second syllable."

"Alarm. Did I say it right?"

"Sounded fine."

"Well. I'd better get going. See you later dude."

Published in The Hindu on January 1, 1996

Word of the day

Fracas:
noisy quarrel

Synonyms: scuffle, fight, clash

Usage: *Security guards rushed in to stop the fracas at the concert.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/fracaspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fjækɑ:/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

'City witnessed quantum uptake in home, office spaces'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city witnessed residential and office transaction volume of 12.7 million square feet during the January-March quarter of calendar 2025, reported realty advisory firm, Knight Frank India.

This unprecedented surge positioned the city as the leader among India's top eight office markets, it reported.

Marking its strongest quarterly performance to date, the realty firm said Bengaluru recorded a staggering 259% year-on-year growth from 3.5 mn sq ft in the first quarter of 2024. The city contributed 45% of total office transactions across major Indian markets, reaffirming its status as a dominant commercial hub.

Bengaluru's office market witnessed a surge in demand, primarily driven by Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which contributed to 65% of all transactions. The city recorded a remarkable 345% YoY growth in GCC transactions, underscoring its appeal as a key destination for GCCs, Knight Frank India said.

Viral Desai of Knight Frank India said, "Bengaluru's commercial real estate market continues to thrive, supported by strong occupier demand, expansion by technology firms, and a growing footprint of GCCs. The city has reinforced its position as a preferred destination for corporate occupiers, particularly in flex office spaces, which have seen unprecedented growth."

Meanwhile, a similar first quarter analysis, based on value, put out by Colliers India, said institutional investments in Indian real state have seen a strong start to 2025, with inflows reaching $1.3 billion in the first quarter.

Multi-city deals corresponded to an overall 31% share, Mumbai, with about $0.3 billion in inflows accounted for 22% of the real estate investments in the country during the first quarter of 2025, while Bengaluru and Hyderabad followed closely with 20% and 18% share, respectively.

While Mixed-use assets accounted for over half of the quarterly inflows in Mumbai, the residential segment drove 55% of real estate investments in Bengaluru during the same period, reported Colliers India in its quarterly review.

Axiom space mission: India's Shubhanshu to fly to ISS in May

He will become the first Indian astronaut to go to the International Space Station and the first Indian to go to space in the last 40 years; Ax-4 is the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

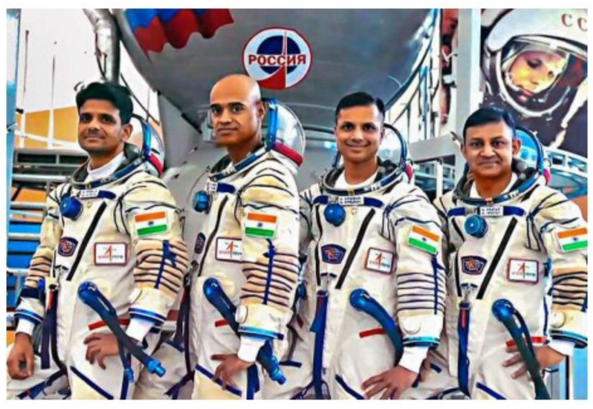
Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) will take place in May 2025.

Gp Capt. Shukla will be the pilot of the upcoming Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4), which is the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS.

Axiom Space posted on X: "With a proven track record of excellence and experience, Axiom Space is proud to have successfully completed three Private Astronaut Missions, with a fourth scheduled for NET May 2025. We take pride in being the trusted provider for multiple countries to #ExperienceSpace and conduct groundbreaking research #ForEarth".

NASA said that the mission is targeted to launch no earlier than May 2025 from its Kennedy Space Center in Florida, U.S.

Gp Capt. Shukla, who is also one of the four astronaut-designates selected for Gaganyaan mission of ISRO, will become the first Indian astronaut to go to the ISS, and the first Indian to go to space in the last 40 years.


Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (left) will be the pilot of the upcoming Axiom-4 mission. PTI

Commercial mission

Former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson will command the commercial mission, European Space Agency project astronauts Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary are also part of the crew.

After the launch from the Kennedy Space Center, the mission crew will spend 14 days on board the ISS to conduct some experiments.

Axiom Space said that the Axiom-4 mission research complement includes around 60 scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries, including the U.S., India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, UAE, and nations across Europe.

"This will be the most research and science-related activities conducted on an Axiom Space mission aboard the International Space Station to date, underscoring the mission's global significance and collaborative nature to advance microgravity research in low-Earth orbit (LEO)," it said.

It added that the ISRO-led research, in collaboration with NASA and ESA, focuses on advancing microgravity research aboard the ISS to enhance theunderstanding of biological processes in microgravity and develop strategies for long-duration space missions.

It said that ISRO's research studies will focus on investigating physical and cognitive impact of computer screens in microgravity, studying growth, metabolism, and genetics of three microalgae strains in microgravity vs. ground, comparing growth, cellular responses, and biochemistry of two cyanobacteria strains in microgravity, identifying pathways of skeletal muscle dysfunction in microgravity and exploring therapies, investigating the impacts of spaceflight on germination and growth of crop seeds, examining spaceflight impacts on six crop seed varieties and identifying molecular mechanisms of resilience in extreme environments.

From Page One

Proposal sent to NMC for more medical seats

Further, Dr. Patil said that the Finance Department had advised that appropriate steps be taken to make government medical colleges self-sustaining in the long run.

"In this regard, we have studied the models of different States, including Gujarat and others. Therefore, we are mulling over charging higher fees for the enhanced UG seats. It will bring good income to the government medical colleges and they will become self-sustaining. This will help colleges avoid dependence on the government fund," he explained.

The Minister pointed out that there are already government medical colleges in 22 districts of the State, and a government medical college in Bagalkot and one in Kolar on public-private partnership (PPP) model had been announced in State Budget.

"Our next goal is to open cancer care centers, super-speciality hospitals and trauma care centres that will cover at least two or three districts each across the State. Many projects are already in progress, which will make more medical services available to the people at a lower cost," Dr. Patil said.

Great ape Minnie dies

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minnie, the female orangutan, which was one of the prime attractions for visitors at the Mysuru zoo, breathed its last, battling pneumonia for the past few days.

The great ape, which was 10 years and 8 months old, died on Wednesday night, said the zoo authorities.

Minnie, who had been housed at the Mysuru zoo after being brought from the Malaysia zoo on April 2, 2021, under an animal exchange programme, had been battling recurrent respiratory illness.

With the death of Minnie, the zoo is left with three orangutans.

Starbucks maiden drive-thru cafe in South India opened in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Starbucks, the Seattle-headquartered cafe chain, opened its first drive-thru outlet in South India in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The cafe chain's India operation, TATA Starbucks, a 50:50 joint venture between Starbucks Coffee Company and Tata Consumer Products Limited, opened its maiden drive-thru cafe at Electronics City, also the 50th store in Bengaluru.

TATA Starbucks currently has eight drive-thru coffee outlets in the country.

"Bengaluru has played a pivotal role in developing the cafe culture and the city continues to be a key market for us as we expand our presence across the country including in smaller towns. The city's cafe culture has been rapidly growing and we serve over 10,000 people here every day," said Sushant Dash, CEO, TATA Starbucks. The brand forayed into the city in 2013 in Koramangala.

SBI
LHO, Amaravati, Gunfoundry, Abids, Hyderabad-500001 Ph: 040-2338 7503
NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC)
TENDER ID: LHO/AMR/P&E/2025-26/01
State Bank of India (SBI) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Project Management Consultant for the Proposed Construction of Building for AO, SBILD and other Offices at Tirupati.
The interested parties, please log on to: https://bank.sbi → SBI In the News → Show more → Procurement news. The last date for submission of applications in the prescribed format with supporting documents at this office latest by 3.00 P.M. on 25.04.2025.
04.04.2025; Hyderabad — Asst. General Manager (P&E)

Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence, Government of India
Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DU)
Placed in the Category 'A' Deemed University by MoE, Govt. of India and NAAC 'A' Accredited

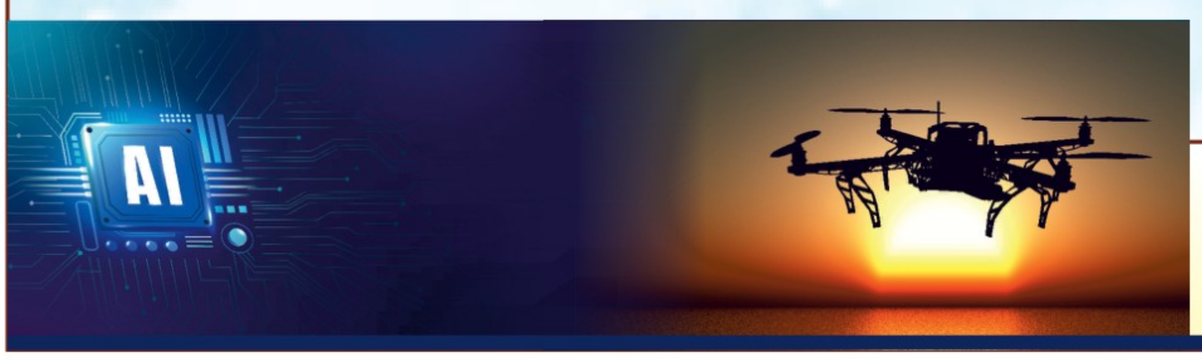
ADMISSION TO M.Tech, M.Sc & Ph.D PROGRAMME–2025

- Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) is a Technological Institute of National repute aegis of MoD/DRDO for higher learning and ranked 63rd in the Engineering category by NIRF in 2024.
- The Institute Spread Across 498 Acres of Land near Khadakwasla Lake in Pune with Renowned Faculties & have State-of-the-Art Research Facilities.
- The Institute imparts education and training in the Advanced Technologies for Civilians (GATE and Non-GATE), Tri-services, DRDO, DPSU and Industry Professionals.
- Our students have the opportunity to pursue projects and internships under the prestigious Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories.
- Over the past years, researchers in DIAT have filed more than 50 patent applications and Published over 2000 articles in various reputed international journals.

A. MASTER OF TECHNOLOGY (M.Tech) PROGRAMME

S. No.	M. Tech Programme (*Specialization)
1	Aerospace Engineering (*Guided Missiles, *UAVs)
2	Modeling and Simulation
3	Computer Science and Engineering (*Artificial Intelligence)
4	Electronics & Communication Engineering (*Semiconductor Chip Design, Signal Processing and AI, *Radar and Communication, *Defence and Space Electronics, *VLSI & Embedded Systems (in association with NIELIT, Calicut)
5	Technology Management
6	Data Science
7	Cyber Security
8	Renewable Energy
9	Nano Science and Technology
10	Quantum Computing
11	Sensor Technology (ST)/ Laser and Electro-Optics (LEOC)
12	Mechanical Engineering (*Marine Engineering, *Armament and Combat Vehicles, *Mechanical System Design)
13	Materials Engineering
14	Automation and Robotics
15	Industrial Systems Engineering (Only for Sponsored and Self Sponsored category)

B. MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.Sc) PROGRAMME
- M.Sc in Food Technology – in association with DIBT (formerly DFRL), Mysore (DRDO)
- M.Sc in Material Science
- M.Sc in Applied Physics (Photonics)
- M.Sc in Applied Chemistry
- M.Sc (Tech) in Photonics
- M.Sc in Data Science



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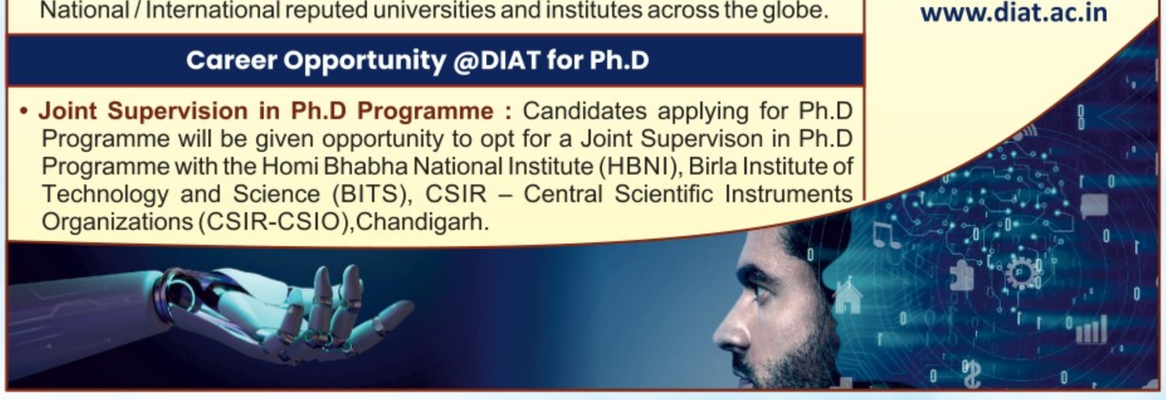

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Price surge: The fare revision for Namma Metro in Bengaluru, effective February 9, has seen the maximum ticket price go up from ₹60 to ₹90. The first fare revision took place in 2017, six years after services were launched. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Bengaluru's metro: India's priciest transit

Commuting by Bengaluru's Namma Metro has become the most expensive service in the country, with the ticket cost surpassing those in Delhi, Chennai, and other major cities. **Darshan Devaiah B.P.** compares metro fares and other parameters across the country and explains how Bengaluru Metro became the costliest transit service

Mahindra Kumar, a daily metro rail commuter between Baiyappanahalli and Cubbon Park, used to pay ₹19 earlier for a one-way ride. Now he pays ₹28. "I am paying ₹9 more for each trip, which adds up to ₹18 daily and over ₹500 a month. It may not seem like much to some, but for regular commuters like me, it's a burden," he says.

Public transportation in Bengaluru is becoming increasingly expensive, not just the metro but also BMTC buses, says Kumar. "With rising travel costs, commuting within the city is becoming a financial strain," he said.

High Court declines to intervene

Kumar's story is similar to that of lakhs of Namma Metro passengers who were in for more disappointment as the Karnataka High Court, on April 1, declined to intervene in the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited's decision to increase metro fares, dismissing a Public Interest Litigation petition that argued the hike amounted to a "breach of promise" as it exceeded previously stated limits.

The fare hike – the first revision in over seven years – has made Namma Metro the costliest transit service in India among the major cities with metro services. The revised fares, effective February 9, saw the maximum ticket price go up by 50%, from ₹60 to ₹90. The first fare revision since the metro began operations in Bengaluru in 2011 took place in 2017.

The fare increase, implemented on February 9, in some cases, approached 100%. Amid public outrage, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah intervened on February 13, instructing BMRCL Managing Director M. Maheshwar Rao to roll back "abnormal" fare hikes. Following this, BMRCL adjusted the increase, limiting the maximum stage-wise fare hike to 71%. However, the base fare and the highest ticket price remained unchanged at ₹10 and ₹90, respectively.

Under the revised pricing, the maximum fare rose from ₹60 to ₹90, while the minimum fare for the shortest distance (0-2 km) remained at ₹10. The fare for the 2-4 km distance increased from ₹15 to ₹20, while those travelling beyond 30 km now have to pay ₹90. The revised fares were implemented on February 14, with some commuters noticing reductions of ₹9 to ₹10 on certain routes.

Further aggravating commuter concerns, BMRCL discontinued QR code-based fare discounts, restricting them solely to smart card users. Even for them, the discount has been reduced to 5%. Additionally, the minimum balance required on smart cards was raised from ₹50 to ₹90. However, a 5% off-peak discount remains available, bringing the total discount to 10% for those travelling outside rush hours – before 8 a.m., between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m., and after 9 p.m. on weekdays. A flat 10% discount is also applicable on Sundays and national holidays.

Kolkata Metro, the most affordable

The recent fare hike has made Bengaluru Metro the most expensive metro service in India. In contrast, Kolkata Metro, operated by Indian Railways, remains the most affordable, with fares starting at ₹5 for short distances and going up to a maximum of ₹50 for longer routes.

> While fare adjustments are sometimes necessary for operations, the recent hike raises serious concerns about affordability and accessibility.
>
> **M.N. SRIHARI**
> Transportation expert

In contrast, for journeys beyond 25 km, Namma Metro now charges ₹90, whereas Delhi Metro's fare for distances over 32 km is ₹60, and Chennai Metro's is ₹50. Meanwhile, in Kolkata, the fare for trips between 25 and 30 km is just ₹25.

Unlike Bengaluru, most other metro systems continue to offer discounts for both QR code and smart card users. Many commuters argue that removing the QR code discount in India's tech hub contradicts the vision of Digital India. Metro operators in Chennai and Kochi still offer a 20% discount on smart cards, QR codes, and WhatsApp tickets.

BMRCL has also raised the minimum balance requirement for smart cards from ₹50 to ₹90, a policy not seen in any other metro service in India. Since its launch in 2011, BMRCL has issued around one crore smart cards. Additionally, the cost of daily and multi-day passes has increased significantly, with the one-day pass rising from ₹150 to ₹300, the three-day pass from ₹350 to ₹600, and the five-day pass from ₹550 to ₹800.

It has also reduced discounts on smart cards and QR code tickets, while other metro systems across India continue to offer significant fare benefits. For instance, Delhi Metro provides multiple discounts to encourage ridership and affordability. Smart card users receive a 10% discount on every journey, with an additional 10% off during off-peak hours to promote staggered travel. Delhi Metro also offers discounted fares on Sundays and national holidays.

In Delhi Metro, smart card users get a 10% discount. There is a discount on Sundays and national holidays as well. MOORTHY R.V.

Chennai Metro provides a 20% discount for passengers using smart cards, National Common Mobility Cards, and online QR code tickets. PICHUMANI K.

Kolkata Metro remains the most affordable with fares starting at ₹5 for short distances and going up to a maximum of ₹50 for longer routes. PTI

Similarly, Chennai Metro provides a 20% discount for passengers using smart cards, National Common Mobility Cards, and online QR code tickets. Hyderabad Metro offers student passes where students get 10 free trips for every 20 trips purchased while Kochi Metro offers student passes, including the "Vidya" pass, with options for daily, 30-day, and 45-day travel – an initiative that Bengaluru Metro does not provide.

Meanwhile, in Hyderabad, metro authorities are considering a fare hike, and a fare fixation committee has been appointed. The previous government had not allowed any fare increase due to the Assembly elections. L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad, which built and operates the project under a public-private partnership.

Autorickshaws more economical

The cost of two end-to-end metro trips has now jumped from ₹120 to ₹180, making shared cabs or autorickshaws a more economical choice for families travelling together. Unlike Delhi and Chennai, Bengaluru lacks a shared autorickshaw system, and the limited BMTC feeder bus service forces commuters to rely on expensive private autorickshaws or bike taxis for last-mile connectivity. With the High Court on March 2 directing aggregators to stop bike taxis, it will soon no longer be an option.

Since the fare hike, commuters have expressed their discontent online and through on-ground protests, including demonstrations inside metro trains. Many have voiced concerns that the increased costs are making public transport unaffordable, pushing people toward private vehicles instead.

Ridership data for Namma Metro indicates a sharp decline following the fare hike on February 9. Before the increase (February 2-7), the average daily boardings stood at 8,44,899, peaking at 8,70,687 on February 7. However, post-hike (February 9-14), average daily ridership dropped to 7,51,560, with a drastic dip on February 9 (6,23,123), the lowest recorded during this period. This suggests an immediate impact, as many commuters may have switched to alternative transport options due to higher fares.

Why Namma Metro is the most expensive

BMRCL stated that the fare hike was based on recommendations from a fare fixation committee (FFC) appointed by the Union government on September 7, 2024. The committee, chaired by a former High Court judge, submitted its report on December 16, suggesting a fare revision after considering operational costs, passenger feedback, and expert consultations.

BMRCL Managing Director M. Maheshwar Rao explained that the FFC had recommended fare increases of up to 105.15%, resulting in an average hike of 51.5% (6.87% per year). However, the final revision was lower than the 14.02% annual increase initially proposed by BMRCL.

Passengers argued that the increased fares would force low-income commuters to revert to private vehicles, further worsening Bengaluru's already severe traffic congestion.

BMRCL cited Section 37 of the Metro Railway Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Act, 2002, which states that FFC recommendations are binding. However, critics pointed to Tamil Nadu's 2021 decision, when the then Chief Minister, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, reduced Chennai Metro fares despite similar recommendations.

Rao admitted that technical errors had impacted the fare calculations and announced corrections to the pricing structure. "This revision aligns with the spirit of the Fare Fixation Committee's recommendations while addressing commuter concerns," he said.

Political showdown

The fare hike has sparked a political showdown between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to BMRCL demanding a rollback, accusing the Congress government of burdening citizens with higher fares.

The Congress, however, shifted the blame to the BJP-led Central government. Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated, "BMRCL revised fares based on recommendations from the fare fixation committee constituted by the BJP-led Centre. Let the BJP explain who is truly responsible."

Under mounting pressure, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah intervened on February 13, directing BMRCL to reverse the "abnormal" fare increases.

This statement contradicted his earlier stance that the Karnataka government had no control over BMRCL's fare decisions, as the metro operates autonomously under a 50:50 partnership between the State and Centre.

Reasons for higher cost

When asked why and how fares remain lower in Kolkata and other cities but not in Bengaluru, a BMRCL official explained that Kolkata Metro is operated by Indian Railways, which heavily subsidises passenger fares. In Delhi, the Union government covers the cost of CISF security, whereas, in Bengaluru, a significant portion of revenue is allocated to staff salaries.

BMRCL officials justified the fare hike by citing rising operational costs and mounting debt. Staff salaries, which make up 61% of operational expenses, have increased by 42% since 2017, while energy costs have risen by 34% due to higher electricity tariffs. Maintenance and administrative expenses saw the steepest surge – 366% – now accounting for 20% of total operational costs, according to a statement released after the fare revision.

Fare chart

City	Minimum fare	Maximum fare
Bengaluru (76 km)	₹10 (up to 2 km)	₹90 for beyond 30 km
Kolkata (61km)	₹5 (up to 2 km)	₹25 for 25-30 km; ₹50, based on distance and line interchanges. A ₹10 surcharge applies after 10.40 p.m.
Delhi (353 km)	₹10 (up to 2 km)	₹60 for more than 32 km; maximum fare for Airport Express Line is ₹70
Hyderabad (69 km)	₹10 (up to 2 km)	₹60 for more than 26 km
Chennai (45 km)	₹10 (up to 2 km)	₹50 for more than 32 km
Mumbai (59 km)	₹10 (up to 3 km)	₹80 for more than 42 km

BMRCL faces substantial loan repayment obligations too. For 2024-25, it is set to repay ₹647.66 crore in loans and ₹122.94 crore in interest, bringing total liabilities to ₹770.60 crore.

Poorly planned, say experts

Transportation experts criticised BMRCL's handling of the fare hike, calling for greater transparency. Ashish Verma, convenor of IISc's Sustainable Transportation Lab, dismissed the explanation of technical glitches, stating, "BMRCL must take responsibility. Why hasn't the Fare Fixation Committee report been made public?"

Transportation expert M.N. Srihari described the fare hike as "unscientific and poorly planned," arguing that fare revisions should be gradual rather than abrupt. "Public transport fare increases should be limited to 10-15%. BMRCL had not revised fares for eight years. Instead of implementing periodic adjustments, they suddenly imposed a 100% hike, which is unacceptable."

Srihari stressed balancing financial sustainability with public welfare. "While fare adjustments are sometimes necessary for operations, the recent hike raises serious concerns about affordability and accessibility. If public transport becomes too expensive, it risks losing its role as a primary mode of daily commute, ultimately defeating its purpose," he added.

The Bangalore Metro and Suburban Rail Passenger's Association has been actively opposing the metro fare hike. Prakash Mandoth, the association's founder-president, stated that the "exorbitant hike" has led to many reverting to private transport, while a significant number of women passengers have shifted to BMTC buses, which offer them free travel.

(With additional inputs from Moyurie Som in Kolkata, Alisha Dutta in New Delhi, Snehal Mutha from Mumbai, Sunitha Sekar in Chennai, and V. Geetanath in Hyderabad.)

SUDHAKARA JAIN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

It's time to play

From Nature walks and sensory play dates to athletics and music, Bengaluru is fast becoming a family-friendly city

Nidhi Adlakha
nidhi.adlakha@thehindu.co.in

Craft and more

When Gitanjali Budhrani's daughter was younger, she found herself driving all over the city for her child's classes. In November 2023, Gitanjali founded Imagine That! Creative Studio to fill that gap. "While the idea stemmed from my own experience as a parent, I also knew several teachers who had well-crafted curriculums but no space to conduct their sessions," says Gitanjali.

What started as a casual search for a suitable space quickly turned into something bigger. Today, Imagine That! offers parents-toddler sessions, after school and kindergarten classes, athletics, and art groups. Gitanjali also offers Nature-based learning.

For the coming months, Gitanjali is collaborating with various teachers to host summer camps.

Upwards of ₹900. For details, call 9916512586

Mindful play

The latest addition to Bengaluru's kid-centric community is Coro, a members-only family club. Founded by Tena Pick and Tanushree Seth, Coro offers parents a space to work, and children to play and connect. "We were aware of the lack of adequate infrastructure for children and families in Bengaluru, and mothers were constantly having to choose between their professional lives and parenting," says Tena.

Coro currently offers in-house activities through the week, as well as events and workshops. "Our aim is to create a space where children can play, explore, and foster a sense of independence. Every week has a different theme, and every day that theme is explored through different modalities, such as music, theatre, arts, and storytelling."

For the summer, a range of movement, dance, music, arts, crafts, sensory play and children's theatre activities are being planned. "We also have food pop-ups, events for the adults on the work floor, and networking opportunities for our families. In the months of April and May, we will host our own summer camp for children," she adds.

Membership plans start at ₹15,000 a month. For non-members, upwards of ₹500 for an activity.

One with Nature

For the last decade, Kavya Chandra has been educating school children, and families through curated Nature camps and day trips in the city that are aimed at "helping them disconnect from their digital lives".

"These experiences are held at public parks and private farms, and today A Green Venture offers experiences which range from education-based content to recreation-based content," says Kavya.

A practising urban grower of over 100 species of plants, she says her methodology is curated based on the audience/ group visiting. "We incorporate storytelling, facts and knowledge, insect and bird spotting, sensory activities, Nature facts and a fun quiz/ game with takeaways at the end."

"Our walks are conducted in a way where we talk and teach to both children and adults," she explains, given the "Nature-deficit" lives most people lead today."

Nature walks upwards of ₹800 and the Nature Camp is priced starting at ₹8,500 per person. For details, call 9886400312.

Mudcakes and flowers

With play-based learning at the core of The LooRoo Club, founders Lakshmi Kaushik and Sangeetha Arjun say it represents "everything we cherish – childhood wonder, deep roots in Nature, and a love for our city".

"Sangeetha, a nutritionist and play-based educator, and I have been friends since third grade, growing up in the 90s with unstructured outdoor play. As parents, we wanted our children to experience the same joy," says Lakshmi.

Known for their immersive, Nature-inspired play experiences, the duo organises playdates themed on books, festivals; workshops for educators; and eco-friendly birthday celebrations. At a farm-themed playdate themed on What The Ladybird Heard, children harvested real potatoes, made pretend food for farm animals using oats, leaves, and grains, and painted farmer boots and ladybugs. "They built tiny worm farms, printed with fruits and veggies, and splashed around in a muddy slush tray, giving farm animals a bath. The day ended with a play-dough garden, filled with colourful flowers," says Lakshmi.

Playdates start at ₹1,500. Details on @theloorooclub on Instagram

Lockdown limbo

IIHS Screens presents Photo, a moving tale of COVID lockdown-induced migration and resilience

Caught out A still from *Photo*, a debut movie by filmmaker Utsav Gonwar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IIHS Screens, an initiative of Indian Institute for Human Settlements, will be screening *Photo*, a critically acclaimed Kannada film that depicts the struggles of a migrant family during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Directed by debutant filmmaker Utsav Gonwar, the film was recently honoured as the third-best Kannada feature at the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes).

Set in Raichur, Kalyana-Karnataka, *Photo* follows the journey of 10-year-old Durgya, who yearns to visit Bengaluru during his school vacation to take a photograph in front of the iconic Vidhana Soudha. His mother, unaware of the looming pandemic, allows him to accompany his father, a daily wage labourer, to the city. However, when a sudden nationwide lockdown is announced, their hopes are shattered. Left without work, money, or transport, Durgya's father makes the agonising decision to walk 450 kilometres back to their village.

The film traces their arduous journey – marked by hardship, resilience, and fleeting moments of tenderness – offering a stark reflection of India's migrant crisis during the pandemic. Following the screening, director Utsav Gonwar will participate in a discussion alongside Nirupama Santosh, lead of the IIHS Media Lab, delving into the film's themes, his creative journey, and the broader social commentary it embodies.

The screening is on April 4 at 6pm at the IIHS Bengaluru City Campus, Sadashiva Nagar. The 94-minute film will be shown in Kannada with English subtitles.

New approach to old issues

Kannada filmmaker Hemanth M Rao talks about turning full-fledged producer with *Agnyathavasi* and the need to support newcomers with unique stories

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Hemanth M Rao is one of the poster boys of the new wave in Kannada cinema. The filmmaker, who recently made the *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* (Side A and Side B) films, has launched his production banner, Dakshayani Talkies.

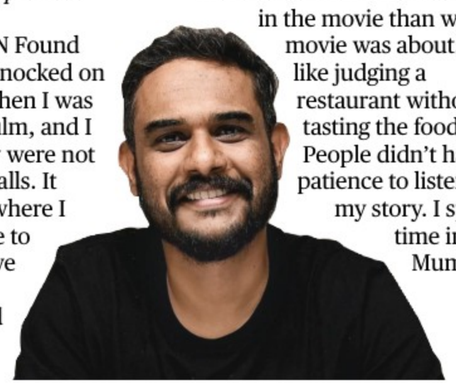
The first film under the production house is *Agnyathavasi*, starring Rangayana Raghu and directed by Janardhan Chikkanna. The film is set to hit the screens on April 11, 2025. "When there is a good murder story, we want to know who did it. *Agnyathavasi* is set in the Malnad region and the crime thriller is a genre I love," says Hemanth.

The director opens up on his plans as a full-fledged producer. Excerpts:

Q: With the launch of Dakshayani Talkies, what happens to Lost N Found Films, your previous banner?

A: I started Lost N Found Films because I knocked on so many doors when I was making my first film, and I realised that they were not doors but only walls. It reached a point where I was like, 'If I have to make a film, I have to find a way to fund myself. I did that with the help of friends and family. I named it Lost N Found because I started making a film, and it got shelved. I eventually made my first movie.

Trial by fire Filmmaker Hemanth Rao (below), actor Rangayana Raghu in a still from *Agnyathavasi*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Q: Starting as a filmmaker, what troubled you during your interactions with producers?

A: Nobody was willing to listen to my script. Their rejection had more to do with who was there in the movie than what the movie was about. It's like judging a restaurant without tasting the food. People didn't have the patience to listen to my story. I spent time in Mumbai, getting to know my job better. I co-wrote *Andhadhun* for Sriram Raghavan. I was about to pack my bags and move to Mumbai permanently, but things worked out back home.

Q: What is the motto of Dakshayani Talkies?

A: I know people who have a great idea and are willing to work hard. I want to produce films that I resonate with. I want to back movies that I love to watch as an audience. For me, any film that makes money is a 'mass' film.

In the Kannada film industry, if a movie makes a breakthrough, it's not taken seriously. It gets termed as a class film, and that's not fair. A mass film or an arthouse movie, every story has an audience. The trick is to figure out what budget is required to make that movie.

Q: Post the pandemic, content-oriented movies are struggling to do well in theatres compared to mainstream entertainers...

A: I disagree. If you make a film with the right amount of sincerity, people are ready to watch it. When I watch a Malayalam film, half of the crowd in the theatre are Kannadigas. The reason why Kannadigas are watching Malayalam films is because we aren't making good movies. We (Kannada filmmakers) must figure out what we are not doing right.

Q: What's the size of Agnyathavasi*? How big is the budget?*

A: The strength and weight of an idea cannot be defined by the bank balance supporting it. A small idea can change and cause a revolution. Rishab Shetty's *Kantara* (2022) is one of the best examples of the theory. *Agnyathavasi* isn't an event film. That said, it has a genre that can hold its own. It is up to the people to shape a movie's fortune.

Q: Agnyathavasi *is clashing with Ajith Kumar's* Good Bad Ugly *at the box office...*

A: I am making a Kannada film, so why should I be scared of anyone? I am saying that with a lot of pride, and it can come back to bite me later. However, there is no pride in what we do if we accommodate someone else. When you clash with a big movie, it might be seen as a David versus Goliath story, but you have to back yourself.

STEPOUT

Live wired

Screech presents its first 'label show', featuring NEFFA-T, known for his musical explorations, such as blending dub-step, grime, techno and more. There will also be a DJ workshop with NEFFA-T between 5pm and 6pm, with a line-up that includes Screech founders Hunnit D and Hellkitty along with Insowmya, Hedz, Fushi and Savethefvce.

At Indiranagar SOCIAL. Tickets on Silkboxes.com

Diva's day out

KS Chithra will perform live at Phoenix MarketCity, Bengaluru on April 5 at 7pm. Chitra is an acclaimed playback singer from Kerala, who has explored the genres of classical, devotional, and popular music. She has also sung for films in Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. The Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee has over 20,000 recorded songs to her credit. *Tickets on BookMyShow.*

CM, Rahul discuss demand for new KPCC president

Siddaramaiah apparently suggests that Cabinet reshuffle can wait till the end of the year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday and reportedly discussed the issue of replacement of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president based on the principle of "one man, one post".

During the 30-minute-long one-to-one meeting with Mr. Gandhi, the Chief Minister dropped hints on the necessity of appointing a new State Congress chief since Mr. Shivakumar is holding multiple portfolios, sources in the party said.

Moreover, the party high command had announced in May 2023 that Mr. Shivakumar would continue to hold the KPCC chief's post till the end of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

For the last six months, the Ministers loyal to the Chief Minister have been demanding a change of the KPCC president and many Ministers, including K.N. Rajanna and Satish Jarkiholi, have expressed their interest to take the charge.

Tete-a-tete: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in Delhi on Thursday.

Party high command had said in May 2023 that Shivakumar will continue to hold KPCC president's post till the end of the Lok Sabha polls

The Chief Minister apparently explained to Mr. Gandhi the potential damage from reshuffling the State Cabinet at present and suggested carrying it out by the end of this year.

The Chief Minister has not reshuffled his Cabinet since the formation of the government in May 2023. There was a demand from a section of leaders to reshuffle the Cabinet for inclusion of senior legislators who have been denied ministerial berths.

He also sought Mr. Gandhi's views on implementing the caste census report, which has been opposed by dominant communities of Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayats.

Vacancies in Council

Sources in the Congress said Mr. Siddaramaiah discussed the names of candidates to fill the four vacancies in the Legislative Council. But Mr. Gandhi reportedly told Mr. Siddaramaiah to accommodate candidates loyal to the party and names suggested by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Mr. Shivakumar. He conveyed that the list of aspirants would be sent to him and Mr. Kharge.

More than two dozen aspirants, including journalists and veteran party leaders, have been lobbying for the seats in the Upper House.

The Chief Minister reportedly also discussed the honey-trap allegations made by Mr. Rajanna in the Legislative Assembly and the gold smuggling case involving the stepdaughter of an IPS officer.

State delegation seeks clearances for pending irrigation projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For approval: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, and Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna called on Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil in Delhi on Thursday.

A delegation led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday called on Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and urged him to direct the officials concerned in the Ministry to accord clearances/approvals for five major pending irrigation projects, including Mekedatu and Upper Bhadra, in Karnataka.

The delegation, which included Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna, submitted a memorandum to Mr. Patil and urged him to issue directions to the Central Water Commission authorities to take up immediate appraisal of the DPR and accord clearances for the Mekedatu drinking water project proposed across the Cauvery.

The Mekedatu project proposes to utilise 4.75 tmcft of water to cater to the drinking water needs of Bengaluru as allocated by the Supreme Court. It also aims to generate 400 MW of hydro power a year.

On Krishna waters

The Chief Minister urged the Centre to take steps for the early issue of a gazette notification on the sharing of the Krishna waters. The final award of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II was published in 2013, and 173 tmcft of water was allocated to Karnataka under the award.

The delay in the final notification has denied the State the right to irrigate more than three lakh hectares of land under the Upper Krishna Project Stage-III in the drought-prone Kalyana Karnataka region. The notification was delayed because Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments moved the Supreme Court opposing it.

The Chief Minister requested the Jal Shakti Minister to take steps to move the Supreme Court by filing an appropriate application for modification of its order dated September 16, 2011, and take steps to publish the KWDT-II Award.

The delegation also sought early clearances from the Jal Shakti Ministry for the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project on the Mahadayi river which was proposed to cater to the drinking water needs of Hubballi-Dharwad cities.

The government requested the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to direct the authorities of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife to accord clearances for the Kalasa Nala diversion scheme (lift scheme) of the Mahadayi project.

The State government sought ₹5,300 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme Scheme/National Project for the early completion of the Upper Bhadra project, which was announced back in the 2023-24 Union Budget.

Price rise: BJP leaders trying to lay siege to Chief Minister's residence taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Being detained: BJP supporters protesting against the hike in the prices of various commodities, in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State unit concluded its day-and-night protest against price rise in Bengaluru on Thursday by trying to lay siege to the official residence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, holding him responsible for burdening common people. However, the police took into custody several prominent leaders, including former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, and released them later.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and a large number of legislators, including C.T. Ravi, S.R. Vishwanath, and Byrati Basavaraj, were among those detained by the police when they were marching towards the Chief Minister's residence.

"The dharna has ended. But this is only the beginning of the fight against the government. Our protest and campaign against the government's anti-people policies, including price rise, will continue. We will visit every district to create public awareness in this regard," Mr. Vijayendra announced. While protests would be held at all district and taluk centres against price rise on April 5, the State tour titled 'Janakrosha Yatre' would begin on April 7 to create public awareness in this regard, he said.

On wakf amendments

Mr. Vijayendra criticised the Congress for opposing the wakf amendment Bill both at the State and national levels, calling it a "tragedy". He accused Congress leaders of "looting land worth thousands of crores" in Karnataka under the guise of the wakf board. "These very Congress leaders are now opposing the wakf amendment Bill," he said.

Mr. Ashok said the BJP would take the fight against the Congress government over price rise and alleged failure on all fronts to the logical level. Claiming that even those who voted for the Congress were now repenting their decision after feeling the heat of its two-year rule, he said the State government was leaving no stone unturned in finding new avenues to tax people.

Accusing the government of looting people through "indiscriminate increase in taxes and service charges", he took exception to revising taxes without mentioning them in the State Budget. He alleged that the government did not even have money to maintain public toilets.

Vijayendra does not have moral right to protest, says Yatnal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expelled BJP leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal taunted his political *bete noire* and BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra by maintaining that he did not have any moral right to protest against the Congress government as the erstwhile government led by his father, B.S. Yediyurappa, had faced allegations of corruption.

Speaking to media persons here, Mr. Yatnal reiterated that there was no question of either the party central leadership inviting him back to the BJP or he returning to the party fold, till the party organisation was under the control of the Yediyurappa family.

P.V. Narayana, scholar, writer and activist, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

P.V. Narayana was at the forefront of Kannada movements for over five decades.

P.V. Narayana, scholar, writer, and translator who was at the forefront of Kannada movements for over five decades, passed away in Bengaluru on Thursday due to age-related ailments. He was 82.

Born in 1942 at Akkirampura village in Tumakuru district, Mr. Narayana studied in Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mysuru, and Dharwad, completing two masters in Arts in Kannada and English. He hailed from the family of Venkamatya, a poet and prime minister in the court of Hyder Ali, following whom everyone in the family used the prefix 'Pradhan'.

On vachana movement

Mr. Narayana chose the 12th century vachana movement as his subject of study, and wrote his doctoral thesis *Vachana Sahitya: Ondu Samskrutika Adhyayana*. He continued his work on the vachana movement through his life, undertaking several research projects, and editing several compilations of the vachanas. He has written nine novels and several scholarly works on 'Halegannada'. His compilations of four dictionaries - *Pampana Nudigani, Champoo Nudigannadi, Halegannada Padasampada,* and *Jainaparibhashe,* on key old Kannada literary texts, are considered significant works.

He was an avid translator and brought to Kannada over 22 works from English and Telugu

He was an avid translator, bringing to Kannada over 22 works from English and Telugu. He brought out a prose version of his ancestor Venkamatya's *Ramayana*, translated Palkurike Somanatha's *Basavapurana*, *Kumudendu Ramayana*, and also Bertrand Russell's *A History of Western Philosophy,* and several other works.

He taught Kannada at Vijaya College in Bengaluru for over three decades, and was active in almost all Kannada movements in the last half-a-century, starting from the Gokak Movement in the early 1980s. He played a key role in the fight for Kannada getting the classical language tag. He served as the dean of the Kannada Classical Language Study Centre at Udayabhanu Kala Sangha, and as the resident of B.M. Sri Pratishtana.

Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi condoled his death.

Govt. seeks power evacuation scheme for pumped storage project

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

A view of Sharavati river downstream of the Linganamakki dam.
FILE PHOTO

Amid severe opposition from environmentalists and local residents, the State government has ordered preparation of a power evacuation scheme for the proposed 2,000-MW Sharavati pumped storage project in the Sharavati valley.

The order was passed in March following a meeting of the State Empowered Committee on Transmission in February. Under an evacuation scheme, infrastructure facilities will be set up to collect and immediately transmit the power generated from the power plant to a load centre through the grid or a transmission system, including transmission lines and substations.

Officials of the Energy Department said the infrastructure would be set up according to the feasibility in the area.

"We need evacuation schemes for any major generation station. For this project, we will only set up what is practically feasible in that region. We will follow the guidelines issued by the Forest Department and the wildlife board, and plan for power evacuation," Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, told *The Hindu*.

There is severe opposition from environmentalists and local residents to the proposed 2,000-MW pumped storage project in the Sharavati valley

The evacuation schemes of the pumped storage project as well as the 2,000 MW solar park at Ryapte village in Tumakuru district, will be developed under the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding basis. Private investors will bid for the particular tariff as decided by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd., a PSU under the Government of India, will be the bid process coordinator for the project.

Mr. Gupta stressed that the whole project would be handheld by the Government of India and the process would be conducted transparently. The evacuation scheme is expected to be completed in around six months. The pumped storage plant of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. has been facing widespread opposition ever since its inception, as environmentalists fear that it will have an adverse impact on the ecosystem and wildlife in the Western Ghats. While the corporation had initially proposed the uprooting of 16,000 trees for the project, the State wildlife board has given its nod for the uprooting up to 8,000 trees.

"According to the Wildlife Act 1972, any development in the forest area should be pro-flora and fauna, but neither power generation nor transmission works that way. Moreover, the Central Wildlife Board is yet to give its nod for the project. So, how are they proceeding with the project?" said Akhilesh Chipli, an environmentalist who is opposing the project.

42,345 houses to be allotted by month-end

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan

As many as 42,345 houses out of 1.82 lakh to be distributed under the 'Housing for all' scheme by the Karnataka Slum Development Board will be allotted this month, according to Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan. The houses are being constructed for the underprivileged families.

Second phase

While 36,789 houses were distributed in February last as part of the first phase, 42,345 houses will be allocated in the second phase on April 27 in Hubballi, he said during the preparatory meeting here on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will take part in the event.

Reading history brick by brick

Architect, writer and educator Priya Joseph at a recent talk titled, *Reading the City Through its Material*, spoke about how a city or a civilization can be read through its building material

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A file photo of Fort High School in Bengaluru.

An old printing press that used individual block letters.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Inside the Fort High School building. FILE PHOTO

If you start to read buildings through their material, you're also reading the buildings as archives," says architect, writer and educator Dr. Priya Joseph at a recent illustrated talk, *Reading the City Through its Material*, held at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru.

At the talk, followed by a conversation with Prathijna Poonacha Kodira, Lead, IIHS Director's Office and Practice, Joseph discusses her recent book *Brick Architecture Craft in Nineteenth-Century South India: Reading Buildings as Archives*. "What I would like to bring through the book is the reading of cities... the history and the polemics of a time (that) can be revealed through a material," states Joseph, a professor at the Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology. "My argument in the book is how, when we read our buildings as archives, it decolonises the reading of cities itself," she says. "You give agency to the people who made it."

Bricks and the city

Humans have been using bricks for millennia, making them an ubiquitous part of our built environment. Brick, a material that she has researched extensively, "has embedded information from various other times" and is "a medium to speak about people, craft, agency, standardisation, decoloniality, much more," she believes.

Priya Joseph. IIHS MEDIA LAB

Joseph's book goes all the way back to the building materials used in the Indus Valley Civilization. According to her, bricks from Mohenjo-Daro were often "in vibrant colours, straw-yellow, bright red and brown (with) unexpected footprints of leopards, dogs and cattle." Sharing a picture of a brick whose surface has been marked with the footprints of a child and a goat, she says, "When you read Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) reports, a lot of it is about coins and pots, but equally important are the bricks."

While this ancient Bronze Age civilisation finds mention in her book, it is primarily about the use of bricks in the 19th century, where a lot of mixing took place between "the colonial agency... the missionaries...the indigenous ways of practice," she says. "And so, it becomes a very important time to look at these intersections, and also see that though these times were oppressive, there is a certain intercession that happened." Until the 19th century, she says, bricks came in different details and sizes. "So, it is almost like a memory of humanity in a brick. The sizes, for instance, reveal a lot; they tell you what fuel was used."

Mangalore tiles

At the talk, Joseph pivots across to Mangaluru, home to pristine virgin beaches, ancient temples, Portuguese legacy and the red clay tiles that get their name from the city where they were first produced. Showing a picture of Mangalore tile, she says that its origins are not simple. "While a lot of architects call these Mangalore tiles a vernacular material, this point can be debated," in Joseph's view. "Earlier, we used to have these tiles, which were half cylinders made on the potter's wheel. But this pattern is very European," she says, further expanding on how the Basel Mission played a role in introducing these tiles to India and beyond.

Rosary Church, Shettihalli. FILE PHOTO

The Basel Mission, founded in 1815 by a group of German and Swiss evangelists, "significantly changed the production of terracotta roofing tiles, bricks, and many other terracotta products." The Mission owes its uniqueness to the fact that it was as much an industrial enterprise as a religious one. "From 1831 to 1920, the mission was involved in several industrial and commercial activities in South Canara."

The Mission, which established its first production centre in Mangaluru in 1834, later went on to launch a letterpress unit there, an initiative spearheaded by the German missionary Georg Plebst. "The press he established in Mangaluru produced and printed documents in Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu and more," she says. Plebst also began working with the local people, drawing from existing craft traditions and using the rich alluvial soil found on the banks of the Netravati River, leading to the intermingling of technologies. In 1865, the first factory manufacturing Basel Mission tiles was established, says Joseph, sharing archival images of this factory and explaining that the tile ended up getting standardised here. "What happens with standardisation is that you can mechanise it and produce it in numbers."

"Ultimately the technical knowledge was transferred to artisan communities in Asia and Africa," she says, pointing out that the way our cities look often lies at the confluence of missionary colonial ways and indigenous ways. "The history of bricks is complex with intersections and interlaps due to the industrial revolution."

Buildings and more

From Mangaluru, Joseph takes her audience to Burma, talking about how the British often tried to apply techniques and labour practices there from their experience in India. She then moves on to the buildings of the Madras Presidency, which had a lot of 19th-century British influence but still drew on a lot of indigenous knowledge.

"The conversations between the indigenous and the colonial were hegemonic, but also very opportunistic," she says.

She also talks about the resthouses or chatrams of Thanjavur, built by Maratha rulers. According to her, since Serfoji II, the last Maratha ruler of Thanjavur, had a Danish mentor, "he had a lot of influence from the West," she says. "There was a lot of mix in these twenty chatram where they have very European volutes, but you also see details that are very local."

Other buildings discussed included the Fort High School in Bengaluru and the beautiful but now ruined Shettihalli Rosary Church in Hassan, built by French missionaries in the 1860s. Using photographs of these buildings, she points to the mixed influences that shaped these spaces. "If you have to read buildings and cities as deep colonial work, you also have to read the hybridity...to see that it is not the purest form, whether the building or city or detail of the material," she says.

Future or bricks

She also talks about the future of brick, especially important if one considers the vulnerability of brick kiln workers and the environmental impact of making this material. Old South Indian brick, she says, was much thinner than the contemporary brick, using lesser fuel obtained from agrarian waste such as rice husk and was a part of the agrarian landscape of India, "a society that continues to be agrarian," says Joseph. "Brickmaking was integrated into the larger ecosystem of the lands, and the production of bricks was linked to the larger ecological cycle; the desilting and distilling of tanks and lakes were necessary, and the silt could be used to make the bricks."

Also, despite the issues associated with brick, "it is still here to remain," she says. "It is still cheaper and incremental, unlike concrete. And it still is a solution for a billion people who cannot afford other materials."

Ranga Shankara to celebrate Ugadi with Kathaa Kaala

The theatre space aims to harvest the region's literary wealth by curating performances and readings that showcase powerful storytelling

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Ranga Yugadi celebrations at Ranga Shankara last year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While Ugadi celebrations just over, for those who are in the mood to continue the spirit of the festival with yummy food and literature, theatre space Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar, would be the right choice this weekend.

Every year, Ranga Shankara marks Ugadi with a special event called 'Ranga Yugadi', that celebrates the literary richness of Karnataka. As Ugadi symbolises new beginnings and the harvest festival, the theater space aims to harvest the region's literary wealth by curating performances and readings that showcase powerful storytelling. Ranga Yugadi has been celebrated by the space for more than a decade now, and this tradition continues in 2025 with a programme called *Kathaa Kaala*, on April 6.

The concept and presentation of *Kathaa Kaala* has been curated by writer and director S. Surendranath. Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said "Ranga Yugadi is a celebration, a festival of literature and theatre, all coming together in joy, along with friends, lively conversations, and delicious food. This Ranga Shankara's way of celebrating Kannada literature. Many friends from the Kannada theatre fraternity have joined hands with Ranga Shankara for this celebration. Three plays, readings of nine stories, and a storytelling session. All in all, it will be a grand Ugadi celebration."

The event will host a day-long immersion into stories, featuring plays based on literary works, short story readings, and a special reading of a seminal Kannada novel. According to a release by the space, this year's Kathaa Kaala is structured into three segments - Plays adapted from stories, readings of short stories, and a reading of Devanur Mahadeva's iconic novel *Kusumabale*. The event will also bring together renowned writers, directors, and performers, ensuring a compelling mix of theater and literature.

The daylong event begins at 11 a.m. with *Naanu Polisanaagidde*, a play based on Basavaraja Kattimani's novel. Directed by Sandeep Pai S., the performance is presented by the theatre troupe Rangasiri. Kattimani's works are known for their deep social insights, and this adaptation promises to bring his narrative alive on stage. At 12 p.m., *Kathegalu Odu* will feature readings of short stories by a lineup of readers, including popular actor Sihi Kahi Chandru, H.K. Shwetha Rani, M.S. Vidya, Ganesh Shenoy, Berty Olivera, Sundar Veena, Nayana Sooda, Kusuma Ayarahalli, and Dadapeer Jaiman. At 3.30 p.m., *Yeradu Kathegalu*, directed by Manjunath L. Badiger and performed by Abhinaya Taranga, a play based on stories by acclaimed writers Veena Shanteshwara and Vaidehi, will be presented. At 5 p.m., Katha Vaachana will present a reading of *Kusumabale*, a celebrated novel by Devanur Mahadeva. The reading will be performed by A.M. Shivaswamy. The final theatrical performance of the day is *Mattobba Maayi* at 7.30 p.m., based on a story by Raghavendra Patil. Directed by Mahadeva Hadapada, the play is performed by Aata-Maata, Dharwad.

Apart from the literally events throughout the day, audience and visitors to Ranga Shankara can delight in some special sweet, sour and bitter Ugadi dishes like mavinkayi chitrana, nellikayi mosranna, karbuja panaka, aam panna, nuchinunde and more at Anju's Cafe within the theatre space.

Tickets for the plays are priced at ₹100 per play, while a season pass for all three plays is available at ₹250. Tickets can be purchased on BookMyShow and at the Ranga Shankara box-office. The foyer events, including the short story readings and the novel reading, are free.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 4, 1975

Karnataka Ministers Resent CM's Remarks

Bangalore, April 3: Three senior Cabinet colleagues of the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, are stated to have conveyed to-day their feelings of embarrassment and hurt to the Chief Minister over the latter's recent assertion in the State Legislative Council that as head of the Ministry, he had the prerogative of overruling the decisions of his Cabinet colleagues.

One of the senior Ministers had also told the Chief Minister at to-day's informal session of the Cabinet that most of his colleagues had been hurt on a number of occasions when their decisions were bypassed.

The Chief Minister, according to informed sources, had assured his colleagues that there was no intentional of deliberate exercises of the constitutional prerogative.

Teachers Call off Boycott

Bangalore, April 3: University and college teachers in Karnataka to-day decided to suspend their 20-day boycott of university examinations, accepting the State Government's decision to appoint a committee to go into the financial implications of their demands.

The President of the Federation of University and College Teachers' Associations in Karnataka, Mr. Raiyanarayana Rao, MLC, said the General Council of the Federation had taken this decision to facilitate the holding of examinations by the three universities in the State from April 7. The Federation, however, reserved the right to adopt other forms of agitation but the demands were not met fully.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Proposed port a threat to ecosystem?

While the coastline of Honnavar Forest Division houses the highest number of turtle nests and release of hatchlings in the Karnataka coast, the fishermen and environmentalists fear that the proposed all-weather PPP port at Pavinakurve near Honnavar threatens the ecosystem, including endangered turtle nesting sites in the area.

Feels so happy, says Range Forest Officer

"When the turtle hatchlings come out of their nests and move towards the sea, we feel so happy," said Manoj Sona, Range Forest Officer with Dakshina Kannada Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Cell. "Though it is our official duty, we feel proud of being part of ecosystem conservation. One needs to go beyond the official duty in the conservation efforts."

Tasi beach witnessed nesting after 14 years

Trasi Beach in Kundapura taluk that hosted Olive Ridleys for over 25 years, witnessed turtle nesting after a gap of 14 years in January 2023. Dinesh Saranga from NGOs FSL India and ReefWatch said that a local fisherman had noticed a lone turtle laying eggs and informed the forest department and the NGOs. He felt the turtle could be the many hatchlings of 2011.

Natural as well as artificial nesting

Once the forest department officials and volunteers locate a turtle nest by following flipper marks of turtles, they assess the safety of such nests. If the nest is very close to the high tide line or prone to attack by predators, they shift the eggs to an ex-situ nesting site created in the vicinity to ensure the eggs do not get damaged.

Guiding the hatchlings using torchlight

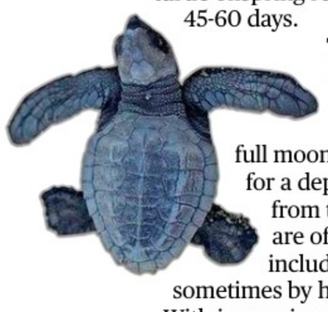
While the turtle hatchlings come out of the nests on their own after germination, they tend to move towards any light they see as per animal tendency.
Forest department personnel and volunteers, therefore, create a dedicated enclosure/ fence from the nest till the sea and at times use torchlight to guide the hatchlings to the sea.

It's turtle time in coastal Karnataka

Hundreds of sea turtles, mainly Olive Ridleys, flock to Karnataka's beaches to lay eggs during December-March, mainly in Uttara Kannada

Anil Kumar Sastry
MANGALURU

It is turtle time in coastal Karnataka with hundreds of sea turtles, mainly the Olive Ridleys, flocking to the beaches to lay eggs during December-March. There are also efforts to safeguard them so as to ensure the turtle offspring return to the sea after a gap of 45-60 days.



Though the sea turtles take abundant precaution in choosing their nesting sites by arriving on beaches during full moon high-tides and digging nests for a depth of up to 1.5 ft as far as away from the high-tide line, eggs so laid are often devoured by predators, including stray dogs. And sometimes by human beings too.

With increasing awareness among people, several initiatives of the government through the Forest Department and legal framework for turtle protection, turtle conservation, protection of their eggs and safe release of the hatchlings are getting institutionalised across the country in general and Karnataka coast in particular.

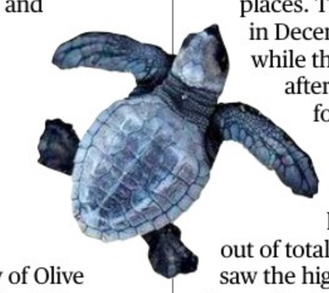
All five species of marine turtles found in Indian waters–the Olive Ridley (Lepidochelys Olivacea), Green (Chelonia Mydas), Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata), Leatherback (Dermochelys Coriacea) and Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) – are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

While Olive Ridleys visit the Karnataka coast in large numbers, a few Green turtles too are rare visitors, according to forest department officials.

From 2020 onwards

Officials said after 1985-86, sea turtle nesting was not predominantly noticed along the Karnataka coast till about 2020-2021, from which period sporadic instances of turtle nesting were being witnessed on the beaches of the three coastal districts. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) also came out with the National Marine Turtle Action Plan in 2021 listing out dos and don'ts with regard to turtle conservation.

The Plan said, "Marine turtles play a variety of ecological roles for maintaining healthy marine habitats like controlling prey populations, supporting coastal vegetation through their hatchlings etc. Their presence is an indicator of healthy marine ecosystems and provides a source of revenue for local communities through tourism. Marine turtles thus present themselves as a key indicator of healthy marine habitats and an opportunity for conservation of associated species." It set five goals in the action plan that included conserving the species, their habitat and reduce negative impacts on survival of marine turtles; improving the understanding of marine turtles and their habitats through a coordinated mechanism; promoting awareness and education on their conservation; enhancing livelihoods of coastal communities through promoting sustainable ecotourism and increasing national, regional and international cooperation on marine turtle conservation.



Highest in Uttara Kannada

Though turtle nesting sites, mainly of Olive Ridleys, are found all along the 320-odd km Karnataka coastline, Uttara Kannada district, particularly the Honnavar Forest Division, records the highest number of nests as well as hatchlings. From the South, nesting sites could be found in Bengre, Panambur, Idya and Sasihithlu in Dakshina Kannada Division, Hejmady, Padubidri, Parampalli, Kundapur-Kodi, Tarapathy, Maravanthe and Koderi in Kundapura Division, Haldipur, Honnavar, Dhareshwar and Gangavali Beach in Honnavar Division, Manjuguni, Belamber, shedkuli, Bhavikeri, Harwada, Mudaga, Naval Base, Tagore Beach, Devbagh, Bavala and Majali in Uttara Kannada Division. Honnavar Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) C.K. Yogeesh said sporadic nesting is found all along the coastline in the Division while high concentration is found in the four places. The nesting season normally begins in December and goes on till about March while the hatchlings come out 45-60 days after the nesting. In Dakshina Kannada forest division, 1,214 hatchlings are so far released this year from 14 nests out of 24 total nests while in the Kundapura division, 1,127 hatchlings are released from 19 sites out of total 25 sites. Honnavar forest division saw the highest number of eggs (33,731) in 344 sites and hatchlings released (18,000 odd so far) while about 4,500 hatchlings are so far released from 56 sites out of 119 total nesting sites in Karwar division.

A group of Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings move towards the Arabian Sea at the daybreak in the Karwar division of the Forest Department. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Kundapur DCF K. Ganapathy said the department had taken many initiatives, including involving fishermen and NGOs in the turtle conservation initiative along the 98 km beach stretch under the division. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Involving the public

The mission to conserve marine turtles becomes successful only when the public residing closer to beaches, particularly the fishermen and women, are involved, said Karwar Division DCF R. Ravishankar. While the fisherfolk who revere turtles do not harm them, enhanced awareness among them and other people, cooperation from civil society organisations etc., has extensively helped the department in the conservation mission. The department follows both in-situ (on-site) and ex-situ (off-site) conservation models. If the in-situ site where the eggs in nests are found to be in danger of either being washed away or devoured by predators, they shift the eggs to specially created ex-situ sites; in both the instances, fencing would be done for protection. Cash incentives are provided to fishermen on intimating about nesting, Ravishankar added.

Forest Department personnel and volunteers remove turtle eggs from a nest to an artificial hatching centre to protect them from high tide and dogs at Sasihithlu Beach, near Mangaluru. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Kundapur DCF K. Ganapathy said the department has taken many initiatives, including involving fishermen and NGOs in the turtle conservation initiative along the 98 km beach stretch under the Division. ReefWatch Marine Conservation-Kundapura, National Service Scheme volunteers, college students and local people are involved in beach cleaning and turtle conservation initiative, he said. All the four Divisions in the coast have Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Cells specifically mandated to conserve various marine species, including the turtles.

Manoj Sona, Range Forest Officer with Dakshina Kannada Marine Cell, said turtle conservation is not just another job for the department personnel; but they do it with passion. Forest watchers, along with volunteers and students, conduct night patrolling to ensure that predators do not destroy the eggs in the nest.

While they follow the flipper marks of adult turtles on beaches to locate the nests, the adult turtles often create multiple flipper mark tracks to misguide others, particularly the predators. The personnel closely follow the marks to zero in on the actual nesting sites, he said. Both in-situ and ex-situ nesting sites are provided with CCTV cameras for round-the-clock monitoring, he added.

Keeping close watch

The personnel keep close watch on the nests, particularly after 45 days of the nest formation. When the eggs hatch, the nests slightly shrink through which the department gets to know hatchlings would soon come out. Like any other animal, hatchlings too follow the light when they come out of the nest after sunset and before sunrise and often tend to get misguided by electric lights in their vicinity.

To prevent this, personnel sometimes create a safe passage from the nest towards the sea and guide the hatchlings with a torchlight. The hatchlings can survive for 48 hours after coming out before which time they should enter the deep sea and find food on their own, Sona added. The RFO further said it was observed that the hatchlings would return to the same place to lay eggs when they grow adult.

HC judge to probe 'sexual misconduct' of district judge

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has asked one of its serving judges to probe the allegation of sexual misconduct of a district judge.

The High Court appointed Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas as the inquiry officer to look into the allegation levelled against a district judge in Kozhikode of outraging the modesty of a woman. The district judge was placed under suspension in December last year following the allegation that he had outraged the modesty of a woman court employee in his official chamber on the court premises.

The issue came to light following a protest by a section of the court staff during the working hours of the court against what they termed the inaction against the officer. Later, the district judge reportedly tendered an apology to the woman in the presence of the principal district judge of Kozhikode. However, the High Court ordered the suspension of the district judge after it took serious note of the developments. The district judge later denied the allegations levelled against him.

An inquiry by the Internal Complaints Committee of the district court reached nowhere following the reported non-cooperation of the woman employee. The woman, chose not to file any complaint before the committee and other legal fora.

SC stays work in Kancha Gachibowli, terms destruction of forest alarming

Court directs Telangana Chief Secretary to explain the compelling urgency which drove the government to flatten trees with heavy machinery and excavate the land; it says the official will be held responsible if any further activity is undertaken

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme court on Thursday observed the extent of destruction caused in 100 acres of Kancha Gachibowli "forest" area shows an alarming picture while directing the Telangana Chief Secretary to explain the "compelling urgency" which drove the State government to flatten trees with heavy machinery and excavate the land in the name of "developmental activity".

Staying work on the land, a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih said the State Chief Secretary would be held responsible if any further activity, other than protecting the remaining trees, was undertaken. "The Chief Secretary will be sent to a temporary prison constructed on the same spot," Justice Gavai remarked in court.

Thursday morning saw the Supreme Court register a *suo motu* case, 'In Re Kancha Gachibowli Forest State of Telangana', after *amicus curiae*, senior advocate K. Parameshwar mentioned the issue. The court asked the Telangana High Court Registrar to visit the spot of destruction and submit an interim report with photographs of the area by 3.30 p.m.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, who appeared for the State, denied that the land had been a forest. The claim that it was forest land had sprung up only when developmental activities commenced after the land was allotted to the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation.

Power of youth: Students of the University of Hyderabad raise slogans during their protest on Tuesday. PTI

When asked whether trees had been felled, Mr. Singhvi had replied that "some shrubs were cleared" in the area. Post lunch, when the hearing re-commenced, the Bench perused the Registrar's report and noted that "a huge number of trees were felled apart from heavy machinery deployed across an area of 100 acres". It noted that a number of peacock, deer and birds were seen in the area, *prima facie*, indicating "that there existed a forest inhabited by the wild animals"."There was a lake once there, but a huge developmental activity took place there," Justice Gavai said.

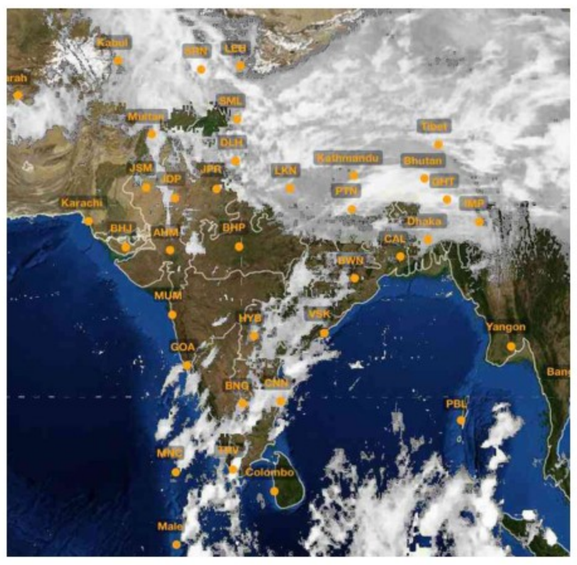
When advocate Gaurav Agarwal, for Telangana, objected to the use of the term "huge", Justice Gavai retorted, "we are saying so... 100 acres is something like Corbett... 100 acres in two or three days is something... we would only remind one sentence, howsoever high one may be, one is not above the law".

SC's stern warning

The Bench said the activity was undertaken despite a March 4, 2025 order of the Supreme Court barring any activity to deplete forest cover across the country. The court ordered the Chief Secretary to respond to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment was done before undertaking the developmental activity.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.2	25.0	Kozhikode	8	35.4	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	40.0	21.5	Kurnool	—	36.0	27.5
Aizawl	—	35.1	19.3	Lucknow	—	38.5	18.0
Allahabad	—	36.0	18.6	Madurai	—	34.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	28.5	22.8	Mangaluru	0.3	33.6	24.5
Bhopal	—	36.4	22.4	Mumbai	—	34.5	25.8
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	24.5	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	36.6	15.0	New Delhi	—	39.0	15.6
Chennai	—	32.3	28.3	Patna	—	36.6	22.0
Coimbatore	—	33.9	25.2	Port Blair	—	32.3	27.9
Dehradun	—	34.8	14.6	Puducherry	3	27.2	23.8
Gangtok	—	23.3	14.1	Pune	—	37.0	24.0
Goa	—	35.0	26.0	Raipur	—	34.0	25.5
Guwahati	—	35.0	19.7	Ranchi	—	35.4	21.4
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Shillong	—	27.4	15.0
Hyderabad	—	34.9	25.4	Shimla	—	27.4	14.2
Imphal	—	30.9	22.2	Srinagar	—	17.2	6.7
Jaipur	—	36.2	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	26.1
Kochi	4	33.0	24.8	Tiruchi	11	33.7	25.0
Kohima	—	21.0	15.0	Vijayawada	—	36.4	26.0
Kolkata	—	36.6	26.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.3	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.98	..79	15	... 324	...295	
Bengaluru	...9	..15	28	 39	...177	
Chennai	...9	..13	58	 34	47	
Delhi	.34	146	72	... 217	...268	
Hyderabad	...5	..88	..6	... 150	...128	
Kolkata	...8	..24	22	 77	80	
Lucknow	.16	..66	58	... 219	...198	
Mumbai	..—	..68	25	... 112	...105	
Pune	.11	123	38	... 115	...115	
Visakhapatnam	...7	..40	15	 23	46	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 268 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Munambam land row echoes in Rajya Sabha

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Kerala's Munambam land row echoed in Rajya Sabha during the debate on the Waqf (amendment) Bill 2025 on Thursday.

The debate on the issue resulted in a harsh exchange between CPI(M) MP John Brittas and Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi.

The Kerala State Waqf Board had recently included 404 acres of land in Munambam coast in Ernakulam, which is inhabited by about 600 families, most of them Christians, in the Waqf register as a Waqf property, leading to protests. The Catholics Bishop Conference of India (CBCI) on Monday appealed to the Parliamentarians to support the Waqf (amendment) Bill.

Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju referred to the Munambam land row and said, "I don't want to put mental pressure on the Kerala MPs... they already must be under immense pressure".

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda referred to the dispute and asked, "Why are the Christian organisations coming to us... Instead of going to the Christian leaders in the State."

Countering Mr. Rijiju, Mr. Brittas said, the BJP is now shedding crocodile tears for Christians. Comparing Munambam land row with Manipur, where he pointed out over 200 churches have been burnt down in prolonged strife in the State and over 50,000 residents are displaced, he said that the left government in Kerala is responsible and will peacefully settle the dispute. "They are shedding crocodile tears for Christians in Kerala. Last year alone 700 attacks happened across the country against Christians...let us not forget that who killed Graham Steines and who did not extend basic facilities to Stan Swamy in jail," Mr. Brittas added. He also attacked the BJP, saying that they did win a single seat in Lok Sabha polls, which was a mistake that Kerala will correct soon.

Red Book is only for those who violated the laws: Lokesh

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Minister for IT & HRD Nara Lokesh said his 'Red Book' was meant to bring only those who broke the law of the land to justice, and there was no need for all YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders to be scared about it.

"We are not like the YSRCP leaders, for whom the Constitution did not matter when they unleashed a reign of terror in 2019-24. In fact, we have provided Z-plus security cover to Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as this is a democracy, and he cannot be deprived of his right to speak out," he observed.

Addressing media persons after launching the distribution of permanent land title documents to the poor, at Undavalli in Guntur district on Thursday, Mr. Lokesh said the previous government had followed 'Raja Reddy's Constitution' but the NDA government would never deviate from the Constitution written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

False cases

Registering false cases against N. Chandrababu Naidu was the order of the day during the YSRCP regime. The NDA government would allow Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy to move freely, and it would duly thwart his political tactics.

Mr. Lokesh said Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy doesn't even have time to meet his own people. The reality was he could not face the masses due to his wrongdoings.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/96/2024-25/13 Date: 02.04.2025

PUBLICATION
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF K.T.C.P ACT, 1961]

Sri C. Kemparaju S/o Chikka rangaiah and Smt. Bharathi Kemparaju W/o Kemparaju have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.53/1 extent of 0Acre-32Guntas (Including 00Acre-01Guntas 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.53/4 extent of 01Acre-11Guntas, Sy.No.53/9 extent of 0Acre-36Guntas, Sy.No.53/10 extent of 0Acre-35Guntas, Sy.No.53/11 extent of 01Acre-12Guntas totally measuring 05Acre-06Guntas of Chinnakurchi Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. It will create opportunities for housing and other development.
2. Employment opportunities will be generated during the development process.
3. The surrounding areas will experience improved infrastructure and economic growth.
4. The development will enhance public amenities such as roads, parks and other necessary facilities.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/047/MAA /25-26

डी एन ए फ़िंगरप्रिंटिंग एवं निदान केन्द्र
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Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039, Telangana, India दूरभाष / **Tel:**+91-40-2721 6199
फैक्स / **Fax:**+91-40-2721 6006 वेबसाईट / **Website:** http://www.cdfd.org.in

PHD-II-2025 ADMISSIONS

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its PhD Program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as PhD Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph. D. program of Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for Admission to the CDFD PhD-II-2025, the candidate must have:

1. A Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture OR MBBS from a recognized University / Institute. **Candidates who have appeared for their final semester examination, but are awaiting results, are also eligible to apply.**
2. Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.

*Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme [which is only for a period of two years] OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - category - II list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are **NOT** eligible to apply.*

(Please see CDFD website (https://www.cdfd.org.in) for details).

Selection Procedure:

Admission to PhD-II.-2025 at CDFD will be based on **"in person" interview(s) which is scheduled to be held at CDFD in mid June, 2025 (the exact dates will be informed along with the list of candidates shortlisted for the interview(s)).** The candidates should be available for more than one round of interviews, spread over a week, if needed.

(Please see CDFD website (https://www.cdfd.org.in) for details).

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for **PhD. - II - 2025 admissions** by applying in the prescribed application form online. The link for the application form is available at **http://www.cdfd.org.in.**

The Online application facility will be closed on **04.05.2025.**

Visit the CDFD website http://www.cdfd.org.in for detailed advertisement / general terms and conditions.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description	Due date
252613 000021	Supply of Thermal Rolls made out of TNPL paper.	15.04.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1327/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-5, Health and Sanitation Division, 4th Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Premises, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.

No: BBMP/EE-5/H&S/EOI/01/2025-26 Date:03.04.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BBMP has intended to Procure Battery operated (EV) Smaller mechanical sweeping machines of capacity less than 2 cum for sweeping of local streets in dense populated areas such as Markets, Commercial Street in order to reduce the dust in the BBMP limits. In regards, this EoI has been invited for arriving the cost for the Vehicle & Annual Maintenance Cost required for the Operation and Maintenance of the Vehicle.
Interested firms who have experience in manufacturing/ Dealers of these equipments as per the specifications can participate in this EoI by submitting their proposal with the following information through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Description	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Capital Cost of the vehicle shall be deliver to Bangalore with all charges and tax such as import tax, GST, Insurance, RTO (If Applicable), freight charges and any other applicable taxes, charges etc.,	
2.	Annual Maintenance Charges of vehicles including all spares and services of the vehicles. 1st year	
	2nd year	
	3rd year	

1) The details of EoI can be obtained from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04.04.2025, 4:30 pm. onwards 2)** Last date for submission of EoI : **15.04.2025 upto 5:00 pm. 3)** For any clarification contact Executive Engineer-5 (H&S.BBMP) office mentioned above between **10.00 am to 5.30 pm. 4)** The Department reserve the right to accept or reject EoI from the applicant without assigning any reason. **5)** Any Addendum/Corrigendum are published through KPP Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-5
Health and Sanitation Division.

Kerala singer fined ₹25,000 for improper waste disposal

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Playback singer M.G. Sreekumar has been fined ₹25,000 on the charge of dumping trash into the Kochi backwaters after a video of the act was recently posted on social media. The playback singer, Mr. Sreekumar, remitted the fine amount after the Mulavukad grama panchayat issued him a notice directing the singer to pay the fine amount within 15 days.

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008.
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tender is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from Licensed **HIV Test Type-I Kits** Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule-"M") issued by the Drug Control Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Re-Tender for the supply of **HIV Test Type-I Kit** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-005/M(P)/ RE-HIV-KIT/ TNMSC/2025, Dated. 04.04.2025	04.04.2025 at 4.00 PM to 21.04.2025 upto 11.00 AM	09.04.2025 at 10.00 AM to 21.04.2025 upto 11.00 AM	21.04.2025 at 12.00 Noon

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/**. The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/1334/TENDER/2025

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

Bhubaneswar Development Authority
Bhubaneshwar Development Authority
Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001. Ph.+91-0674-2392801

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bid Identification No.188/EM/BDA **Date: 02.04.2025**

Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites following item rate bids in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible bidders as mentioned below:

Sr.	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of Work	Selection of an Agency for Operating & Maintaining Gymnasiums in Indira Gandhi Park in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
2.	Cost of Bid Documents	INR 10,000.00 + 18% GST = INR 11,800.00 (Online Mode)
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 5,00,000.00 (Online Mode)
4.	Availability of Tender	From 05.04.2025 to 05.00 PM of 29.04.2025
5.	Last date and time of submission of Tender	05.00 PM of 29.04.2025
6.	Date and time of opening of Tender	03.30 PM of 30.04.2025
7	Place of opening of Tender	O/o - Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

CAD-19: **Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.**
OIPR-13033/11/0269/2425

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Instant injustice

The state must not be allowed to adopt the playbook of the mob

Arbitrariness and brazen bias in law enforcement have undermined the rule of law in India for decades. Despite the spread of education and growing awareness of rights among the masses, high-handedness by the state often threatens the fundamental rights and dignity of citizens. Custodial torture and extrajudicial killings are reported with alarming frequency. Police and civic authorities in several States now routinely resort to demolition of property as a convenient and extra-legal form of punishment – not just for criminal suspects but also for political opponents. Given the spread of this disturbing trend, the Supreme Court of India 's strong remarks against the practice this week offer a glimmer of hope. A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka stated that the illegal demolition of properties belonging to six individuals by the Prayagraj Development Authority in Uttar Pradesh in 2021 had "shocked the conscience" of the Court. The order followed findings that the demolitions were carried out without even serving show-cause notices to the house owners, either in person or by registered post. "These cases shock our conscience. Residential premises of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished... There is something called the right to shelter, something called due process... The authorities, and especially the development authority, must remember that the right to shelter is also an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution," the Court observed. The top court has ordered the payment of ₹10 lakh as compensation to each house owner. Through its observations, the Court has reiterated the basic principles of the rule of law – that there can be no punishment without trial, no collective punishment, that every person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and that guilt cannot be ascribed by association.

While this is mostly reassuring, it remains doubtful whether such judicial intervention is sufficient to act as a deterrent. For one, despite earlier disapproval of the bulldozing of property under the guise of law enforcement, the practice has not only continued in Uttar Pradesh but has also spread to other States. Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States have been eager adopters of this trend, but it has also found appeal beyond partisan lines. The Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab, for instance, recently resorted to property demolition as a tool in its campaign against the drug mafia. The apparent social approval of state high-handedness in many situations is a troubling commentary on collapsing standards of governance. Mob lynching is a menace the state is duty-bound to curb with an iron fist; it is tragic when the state itself adopts tactics akin to mob justice. The Supreme Court must ensure that its orders are implemented in letter and spirit – consistently and throughout India.

Data and federalism

Reliable data can lead the dialogue between the Centre and the States

This week, NITI Aayog, in partnership with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), launched the NITI NCAER States Economic Forum – a portal aggregating data and analysis on State finances. It presents State-wise reports covering macroeconomic indicators including tax and non-tax revenues, as well as human development statistics such as school dropout rates, literacy levels, employment, and historical trends in the devolution of central funds. At a time when Centre-State relations are under renewed scrutiny, particularly in the southern States, where fiscal federalism has been a long-standing flashpoint, this portal is a timely and welcome move. The data is not new, drawn as it is from established sources such as the 2011 Census, the Periodic Labour Force Survey, and the Reserve Bank of India's State Finances Report. However, its comparative presentation across States brings clarity to the diverse fiscal realities of India, offering a structured lens through which to assess disparities and development. Concerns persist about the quality of economic data in India, and this portal is not immune to these, relying as it does on existing sources. Yet, by organising the data in a user-friendly and comparative format, it can help anchor contentious debates – such as those around revenue-sharing and parliamentary delimitation – in facts rather than sentiment. While these issues are serious, they are part of a much larger set of challenges tied to fiscal relations and political power-sharing between the Union and the States.

The effective use of such data depends on ongoing engagement by States, especially through institutions such as the Sixteenth Finance Commission. For India's federal structure to work equitably, regional data must be translated into policies that ensure fair representation, resource allocation, and administrative responsibility. Unfortunately, discussions on federalism often get reduced to narrow and polarised frames such as debates around the three-language policy or calls to defer delimitation. Over-centralisation can breed discontent, while regional resistance often risks turning parochial. Navigating this balance requires cooperation rooted in evidence and mutual recognition of diverse State realities. Leaders in both New Delhi and the State capitals must engage in a spirit of transparency and trust. The new data platform is not a panacea but offers a credible starting point – a tool for fostering informed, pragmatic conversations around governance, development, and the future of Indian federalism.

The other space race — the geopolitics of satellite net

Arindam Goswami

is a Research Analyst in the High-Tech Geopolitics Programme at The Takshashila Institution

India still has regions where fiber optic cables have never reached and cellular towers remain sparse. SpaceX's recent partnerships with Airtel and Jio to expand Starlink services across India could be looked at as a fundamental shift in the conceptions of connectivity, national sovereignty, and economic power in the digital age.

It is not a zero-sum game for both sides. There are economic benefits for all. For Airtel and Jio, Starlink allows them to provide high-speed Internet to India's most remote regions without the infrastructure costs of terrestrial networks. For SpaceX, the deal opens up a huge market. It also takes care of India's complex regulatory landscape by channelling Starlink's technology through domestic players.

Yet, these arrangements are not just business strategy. There is a lot of geopolitics involved too. Communications infrastructure has always been intertwined with national security and sovereignty, a reality made even more pronounced when that infrastructure orbits 550 kilometres above earth. With the intertwining of business and political interests globally, it cannot be denied that there are fears that the United States-based Starlink network gives the U.S. an advantage in the competition for digital influence, particularly as China develops its rival GuoWang constellation. India's options were to wait for homegrown alternatives or partnering with other countries (potentially even China). But choosing Starlink could indicate a geopolitical realignment in the Indo-Pacific region. India chose a (seemingly) democratic alliance rather than an authoritarian one.

The monopolistic concerns surrounding Starlink cannot be dismissed. With around 7,000 satellites already in orbit, SpaceX enjoys first-mover advantages in the low earth orbit internet market. OneWeb, its closest competitor, operates fewer than 650 satellites, while Amazon's Project Kuiper remains very small. This is tending towards a monopolistic market structure. This also has its attendant economic problems of competition, pricing, and dependency. It runs the risk too of having private companies wield nation-state levels of influence over critical infrastructure, as was evident when SpaceX briefly cut Ukraine's Starlink access during critical military operations in 2022.

Economic value versus geopolitical control

Let us analyse these aspects of satellite Internet through a framework that captures both economic value and geopolitical control. The high economic value, high geopolitical control scenario can be called the "Digital Sovereignty" scenario, where nations have both profitable telecommunications and strategic independence. China's GuoWang constellation aims for this position, designing its system explicitly as a state-controlled asset. In the high economic value but low geopolitical control equation is the category of "Market Dominance", where Starlink currently operates, offering tremendous commercial potential but placing control largely outside the host nation's hands. This can be mitigated to some extent by routing it via domestic telecommunications companies, though this could be termed as just a face-saver, as effective control still sits with Starlink. The "Strategic Asset" scenario (low economic value, high geopolitical control) is where India's limited indigenous satellite capacity could be placed into (this strategically vital but economically suboptimal). Economically sub-optimal, it could be argued, is strategically useless, because it does not offer any leverage power.

Finally, the "Marginal Presence" context captures emerging players such as Amazon's Kuiper project – an example of still developing economic models while offering limited strategic leverage.

> It remains to be seen whether satellite Internet will lead to a promise of universal connectivity or strengthen existing digital divides in orbital form

Towards digital sovereignty for India

For India, the question now becomes whether this is a long-term strategic position. India's Space Research Organisation (ISRO) continues to develop indigenous satellite capabilities. The aim is obviously "Digital Sovereignty". However, it would require a lot of investment and time, both of which have their strategic tradeoffs.

The partnership model adopted by Airtel and Jio creates a buffer that preserves some measure of sovereignty. Technology transfer provisions and local data storage requirements could protect India's concerns and also enhance India's long-term capabilities. Additionally, having more options for domestic partners means India can maintain some amount of leverage against local monopolistic behaviour, though one could argue about its effectiveness. This model of managed dependency is worth exploring further.

One aspect that is intriguing in all of this is the absence of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) from these partnerships. BSNL could have helped reduce some of India's strategic concerns. As a state-owned enterprise with extensive rural presence, BSNL provides dual benefits: it provides Starlink with broader reach while giving the government more direct oversight of this critical technology. While BSNL is facing some financial problems, considering the strategic benefits of having BSNL involved also represents a lost chance.

A technology evolution, challenges

Could these partnerships establish a template for something such as global Internet governance that has geopolitical dimensions? As developing nations face the choice between American, Chinese, or indigenous satellite systems, the Starlink-India hybrid model tries to balance technological pragmatism with strategic autonomy.

For SpaceX and Elon Musk, these partnerships have benefits both in terms of commercial opportunity and political legitimacy. Indian regulatory concerns are assuaged. This natural evolution of technology from being disruptive to partnering with governments mirrors the trajectory of previous technological revolutions, from railroads to telecommunications.

The ultimate question remains whether satellite Internet will fulfil its promise of universal connectivity or simply reproduce existing digital divides in orbital form. If it remains too expensive for most of India's rural population, or requires significant government subsidies which would make it untenable for the Indian government, then it would be a bad deal. Some innovative sales techniques, such as tiered pricing models and package deals, would be needed in this scenario. The famed "innovation at the bottom of the pyramid" could surely help India, by packaging products in a way that are accessible, affordable, and valuable to low-income populations, while also being profitable to the companies involved.

With increasing attractiveness of satellite Internet, the governance challenges will only intensify. These will include orbital debris management, and space traffic control. Their transnational nature will require international governance cooperation even amid strategic competition. Without effective global governance, the promise of universal connectivity could be undermined by the tragedy of the orbital commons.

Orbital assets are going to become as strategic as terrestrial ones. For all stakeholders – nations, companies, and citizens – the challenge is to harness the connectivity revolution without surrendering autonomy.

Bangladesh events, a reflection of South Asia's minorities

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman

is the author of 'Shikwa-e- Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims' (2024)

The political developments in Bangladesh, particularly violence against Hindus, since the deposition of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024, have again raised apprehensions regarding the status of religious minorities in the country. In the broader perspective of the current circumstances of Indian Muslims and minorities in Pakistan, those of minorities in South Asia have reached an unprecedented low since Partition. Not long ago, religious minorities in India, particularly Muslims, were comparatively better off than those in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Political trends in each of these nations suggest a continued decline.

A subject that is still in focus

British India's Partition in 1947 was supposed to resolve the question of religious minorities, particularly Hindu-Muslim. Partition, with its unsettling legacy, has emerged as the principal issue facing the subcontinent. The management of Partition, particularly the methods and legacies it has bequeathed to the separate countries, has become a subject of incessant political disputes, surpassing the event itself. The anguish and the resentment of those who crossed over into India have fuelled the ascendance of a hegemonic Hindutva nationalism. Moreover, Partition has engendered new classifications of socio-political entities, such as Mohajirs in Pakistan and Bangladeshi refugees in India. Next, there exists the Kashmir conundrum. Furthermore, Partition, based on the Hindu-Muslim issue, has involved other minorities, including Sikhs and Christians, in its contentious dynamics, rendering the minority question pivotal for the region's sustainability. The fate of religious minorities in South Asia is evidently interconnected, necessitating profound reflection on how to handle it for the region's peace and prosperity.

Owing to the movement of people across the newly established boundaries post-Partition, the issue of minorities emerged as a serious one for the new leadership of both India and Pakistan. Notable political personalities in India, such as Syama Prasad Mookerjee and B.C. Roy, initiated discussions regarding definitive solutions to the issue of potential mass population exchange between India and Pakistan. In response to the escalating refugee issue from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), Sardar Patel proposed the extraction of substantial land from East Pakistan to house the influx of migrants. It signified the military occupation of the Khulna and Jessore districts in the former East Bengal. The Nehru-Liaquat Ali accord, which was made in 1950 against this backdrop, was aimed not only at resolving the minority question but also at the prevention of possible war. K.C. Neogy and Syama Prasad Mookerjee resigned, as anticipated.

Historian Pallavi Raghavan provides an in-depth examination of the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact in her book, *Animosity at Bay: An Alternative History of the India-Pakistan Relationship, 1947-1952*. Efforts were undertaken to institutionalise the Pact, resulting in the establishment of a Branch Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in Calcutta. The Pakistani newspaper, *Dawn*, praised the Pact as a 'breath of fresh air'. The region's geopolitics saw a significant transformation in the post-Nehru era. The Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact, intended to safeguard minority rights in Pakistan, ultimately neglected the rights of its Muslim majority, specifically Bengali Muslims in East Bengal, culminating in the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971. The two-nation theory ultimately resulted in the establishment of three nations in the subcontinent.

> Addressing the state of religious minorities in South Asia will have bearing on the region's peace and prosperity

India-Bangladesh ties need recalibration

Although India made significant contributions to the liberation of Bangladesh, the relationship between the two countries was not solely influenced by Bangladesh's enduring appreciation towards India. The current status of Hindus in Bangladesh has become a significant concern in India-Bangladesh relations. Recent discussions have focused on whether the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh is politically driven or indicative of a new era of persecution against them. Some contend that India has erred by diminishing its relations with Bangladesh to a focus solely on Sheikh Hasina's family. By designating the problem of Hindus as a bilateral matter, India aims to present a new spin on its comparative advantage regarding India-Bangladesh ties. The secular fabric of Bangladeshi society has always been tenuous, with no consensus among the contending ideological factions. India must recalibrate its connection with the populace of Bangladesh and its democratic entities, rather than focusing on a specific family or political party.

The overall picture

The fate of religious minorities in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh is deeply intertwined, and there is a need for a new language and new institutions to address the issue of their rights. The restricted experiment of the Nehru-Liaquat Ali alliance imparts relevant lessons even in contemporary times. The notion that people with a shared history might cultivate a common future is not wholly utopian. Consequently, discussions regarding Partition must be reinvigorated in order to foster better understanding between Hindus and Muslims in South Asia. Further, recognising that minority rights are most effectively safeguarded inside a secular democracy, there is a necessity for novel initiatives not only in India but also in Pakistan and Bangladesh. When Indian Hindus express concern solely for Hindus in Bangladesh and Muslims in Pakistan advocate this exclusively for Muslims in India, such political conduct implies greater solidarity for co-religionists within their own religious communities than a commitment to minority rights. This political milieu legitimises majoritarian ideology across boundaries, fostering circumstances for hatred and violence.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy is alive

The marathon debate in the Lok Sabha, on the Waqf Bill, which went on late into the night and was passed with a comfortable majority after voting, shows that India is the largest democratic country with democratic norms as a part of its soul and body, whoever is in governance (Page 1, April 3). India is a role model for all other countries as in India, it has been amply demonstrated that the power of the power of people is supreme. This is a proud moment indeed for India.

J.P. Reddy,
Nalgonda, Telangana

Disturbing

It is a sad scenario that many aspects of life in India are now assuming political colours or bias. There needs to be debating on the concerns that these subjects may raise. The change in attitude of political parties and organisations is jarring.

Jiji Panicker K.,
Anjilimoodu, Chengannur, Kerala

Judges, declaration

I write this letter as Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and a former Union Minister for Law and Justice. The decision made by Supreme Court judges to make information about their assets public is a welcome step towards judicial transparency and a declaration by the judges of their willingness to subject themselves to public scrutiny as far as the sources of their wealth is concerned. At a time when suggestions about judicial impropriety are becoming louder, and popular faith in the judiciary is shaken, this symbolic gesture by the judges of the nation's highest court will help in restoring the credibility of the judicial institution. The judges of the Court presided over by the Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, deserve full credit for living up to the high standards of probity expected of them. Questions have been raised about the preferential treatment accorded to the judges in the matter of public declaration of their assets, as compared to Member of Parliament and Ministers, who also perform high constitutional duties but are obliged to make their assets public. By voluntarily deciding to make information about their assets public, the judges have strengthened their credentials as the nation's final arbiters of justice, particularly because their authority is derived from their unquestionable moral and intellectual integrity.

The Justice Yashwant Varma episode has validated the proposition that significant events trigger historic changes. Opening judicial assets to public scrutiny is such a development. It is necessary, however, to ensure that the information is not abused to compromise judicial independence.

Ashwani Kumar,
New Delhi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Should India reduce tariffs given the U.S.'s moves?

PARLEY

Ajay Shah

Economic columnist affiliated with the XKDR Forum

Laveesh Bhandari

President and senior fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress

United States President Donald Trump's move to impose reciprocal tariffs on many countries, including India, has caused significant uncertainty in the global economy. Indian policymakers have tried to placate Mr. Trump by reducing tariffs on a number of U.S. goods, and they have also been in talks with U.S. trade negotiators about a possible bilateral trade agreement. Should India reduce tariffs given the U.S.'s moves? Ajay Shah and Laveesh Bhandari discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J.** Edited excerpts:

What is the consensus opinion among economists on the impact of tariffs on economic growth?

Laveesh Bhandari: I think there is a near-consensus among economists that generally lower tariffs are good and, as much as possible, you should keep tariffs low. It's not just from a consumer perspective, but also from an efficiency perspective. It is important to get our tariffs down, down to wherever we can. And of course, there are many other issues here, the most important being that you also need to look at the non-tariff barriers that exist both within and outside.

Ajay Shah: I agree. I want to add two more points. The first is that the extent of the economic distortions and the damage to efficiency caused by tariffs is related to the heterogeneity of tariffs. So, if you must have tariffs, please have only one or have very few rates. Second, China is a systemically important country. It is a country where the government has a very high control of the economy and there is a whole array of mechanisms through which Chinese overproduction is messing with the world. This calls for certain measures. But generally, in almost all situations, we are better off with lower tariffs with a uniform rate.

Shouldn't governments' tariff policy focus on helping consumers rather than producers?

AS: When there is a 20% customs duty on a car, the price of the car goes up from ₹5 lakh to ₹6 lakh and the consumers end up paying ₹1 lakh extra for a car. Indian manufacturers also get a higher profit margin because they are able to sell the car at ₹6 lakh instead of ₹5 lakh. But this issue is fundamentally about efficiency. That is, if a firm is not competitive and cannot produce a car at ₹5 lakh, it should probably go out of business. You should only be producing in India if you're globally competitive. If not, somebody else somewhere in the world should be producing and we should import. So, it's a deeper story about resource allocation: we in India should do the things that we are good at and we should be buying the rest from the world. So, this is the efficiency idea. It is the opposite of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

'Trump is talking about all countries. He's not talking only about China.' GETTY IMAGES

Are Mr. Trump's reciprocal tariffs simply a bargaining tool, or a way of encouraging domestic American manufacturing?

LB: Mr. Trump is not entirely incorrect. Almost every country has different kinds of protection that they provide to their own industry and at the cost of U.S. firms. The problem, however, is when he starts to negotiate different rules to be applied for different countries, such as different rates to be applied to different countries. That's where I think there will be a great harm one way or another to U.S. industry. At the same time, I don't see how else he could have gotten other countries to get their own tariffs down. This had to be perhaps the only tool he had to negotiate others' tariff rates down. I think he is going to mellow down after a year or two when the early gains have kicked in.

Do you think reciprocal tariffs are a good way to get other countries to lower tariffs? The traditional approach has been to negotiate lower tariffs through bodies such as the World Trade Organization.

LB: Yes, but the WTO has effectively become dysfunctional. So, using such a mechanism to get countries to reduce their tariffs and non-tariff barriers would have been a very long shot. So, I think Mr. Trump had to use something more than that. I agree that maybe he's doing this in an extreme manner, but I don't see any other mechanism which could have gotten countries to reduce tariffs.

> Mr. Trump is not entirely incorrect. Almost every country has different kinds of protection that they provide to their own industry and at the cost of U.S. firms. The problem, however, is when he starts to negotiate different rules to be applied for different countries..
> LAVEESH BHANDARI

AS: I think China holds the blame for spoiling the global trade system. China was the systemically large player in world trade, and it practised domestic subsidies and distortions at an unprecedented scale. That has created problems for everybody.

I agree that the WTO is broken and doesn't work as the WTO gives a veto to every single country. So, basically almost any idea can be blocked. India is famous for having been a spoiler by interfering with every imaginable thing. Now, in that context, what do you do? I'm not convinced that the Trump approach is that effective. First of all, he's talking about all countries. He's not talking only about China. He wants to go after so-called unfair trade practices by every country. He is pointing to Indian tariffs, which are essentially the highest in the world. But then what are you going to do about it? The end game is not clear. Mr. Trump is not saying that once India solves everything, that is, if it solves the problem of high tariffs and non-tariff barriers and opens up the economy to free trade, zero tariffs will be imposed on Indian goods coming into America. These are all messy questions and the U.S. is about 20-25% of world GDP. So, action by the U.S. is throwing a spanner in the works of the global economy, and it will harm economic activity and the efficient organisation of production all over the world.

What about non-tariff trade barriers? How significant are they, and what is their effect on global trade and India?

LB: I think non-tariff trade barriers are far more endemic than what even studies are showing. I think they exist in different ways or in almost every sector, and almost every country has some set of non-tariff barriers. India also imposes such barriers on its imports from almost every trade partner. If you talk to people in the industry, they will complain about various kinds of non-tariff trade barriers that they have to face. India may have a different set of benchmark quality specifications required as opposed to those in some other countries. So, sometimes that also gets in the way, and it's sometimes very difficult to be able to disentangle whether something is an explicit non-tariff trade barrier or not. But having said that, non-tariff trade barriers are a very big issue, and from what I understand of the U.S. approach, they are saying that they will judge and decide for themselves how significant the barriers are.

AS: I agree that non-tariff barriers are very important and very messy. It's very hard to interpret and judge the materiality of a non-tariff barrier. The Europeans have extremely high sanitary standards on the export of grapes from India to Europe. Now it is a level playing field in that the grapes made in France need to comply with the same quality controls as the grapes made in Nashik. It is possible to fiddle with these rules and make them a trade barrier. So, this is a difficult field and also a very important one.

How should India handle Mr. Trump's tariff moves? Should India declare unilateral free trade with all countries?

LB: We should reduce tariffs across the board. However, it should not be instantaneous. It's nicer to give some time for firms and stagger tariff reductions and make it clear to the industry that these reductions are permanent and not dependent on how the U.S. responds.

AS: I would like to take us all back to former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha's period, which, in my opinion, witnessed one of the greatest, successful trade liberalisations in India. What was done was years ahead of time. Everybody was told that the peak tariff rate would go down by 5% every year and then businesses started putting this into their planning and it triggered a great investment boom. So, one should not do things suddenly, but you should announce them earlier. And the government needs to achieve credibility, in the sense that whatever announcements are made should actually go through. With a very comprehensive Indo-U.S. free trade agreement, it is possible to remove all the trade barriers between India and the U.S., and that would be exciting. Without any trade barriers, a frozen chicken from Texas would compete with chicken made in Maharashtra. We should also go for complete trade liberalisation with the EU, the U.K., Japan, and so on. That would be something truly transformative for the Indian economy.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

In conversation with Ilaiyaraaja

Exploring the music director's journey in life, one of high notes, has been an enriching experience

B. Kolappan

I belong to the generation that grew up listening to the songs of Ilaiyaraaja, probably the first music director whose fame overshadowed even actors with a mass fan following. This was evident in any cinema hall when loud cheers would rent the air on seeing his name appear on the screen. Another sight used to be of us collecting cinema tickets from others present in the movie hall and throwing them up in the beam of the projector light from the operator's room. A small and simple man clad in a spotless white dhoti and collarless white shirt, with a shawl draped on his shoulders, the music director was one whose songs melted our hearts and made heroes and heroines appear more beautiful. But in reality, he had an intimidating presence. In my interviews with him, as a journalist, he was forthcoming, though he always sounded combative. But still, speaking to him about his music was an exhilarating experience.

During the 90th birthday of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, he made a sudden appearance, showered a few gold coins on the dais and left quickly. But the first time I met him was with my colleagues in *The Hindu*, Meera Srinivasan and Deepa H. Ramakrishnan. He used to be working from Prasad Studio then. After getting to know that they were trained in Carnatic music, he asked Ms. Meera to sing a *keerthana – Etha Unatha* in *Kalyani*. He then suggested that she sing without much stress on the *ghamaka*. This was a moment that broke the ice, leading to him inviting us to his composing room. This space had a portrait of Ramana Maharshi adorning the wall. Ilaiyaraaja began playing the harmonium, explaining the various aspects of music. We lost count of time. While winding up, he said, "I know you don't feel like leaving. Let us meet another time."

Carnatic music is close to his heart though he does have an astounding understanding of every genre of music. He loves the nagaswaram and his favourite musician is the late Kulikarai Pitchaiappa.

He agreed to meet me when I expressed my desire to write about his teacher, Dhanraj Master, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Ilaiyaraaja was learning western music from him while Dhanraj Master was staying in a lodge in Luz Corner. But he refused to teach Ilaiyaraaja further on learning that he had begun working in the film industry.

Ilaiyaraaja told me, "I launched [into] self-learning mode and got 85% in the examination conducted by Trinity College [London]. When I showed the certificate to Dhanraj Master, he said, 'Raja, you are great'."

It was Dhanraj Master who changed Ilaiyaraaja's name to Raja. But the director and producer, Panju Arunachalam, who gave him an opening as a music director for the film, *Annakili*, changed his name to Ilaiyaraaja.

Ilaiyaraaja's residence would transform itself into a small concert hall during the 10 days of Navarthiri. The select audience could look forward to classical music concerts and dances. He would also serve food to the poor. Explaining why he did this, he said, "We [his brother Bhaskar and director Bharathiraja] did not have money or food for a few days. It was raining heavily and after a lull, we left the room in Kodambakkam and walked up to Vadapalani. Shop owners were celebrating Saraswathi pooja and we collected puffed rice being distributed as prasadam and returned. We made a small mountain of puffed rice wrapped in newsprint (*The Hindu*) and ate it. When I narrated this to my wife, she suggested that I should feed the poor during the Navarathiri, a practice which I still continue."

I once asked him whether I could play his songs set to *Keeravani* rendered by my friend and nagaswaram player, E.M. Mariappan. He nodded in appreciation when some phrases were recaptured in nagaswaram. "You are the greatest rasika if you can enjoy Carnatic music," he told me. He also said, "It is I who introduced Beethoven and Mozart to you people. There are elements of symphony in my film songs. But some people say I have copied them from elsewhere," he said.

It is always easy listening to him speak. But if you tried to cross some lines, he would be tough.

kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK | A congregation of 'oracles'

Sword-wielding priests at the annual festival at the Sree Kurumba Bhagavathy Temple in Kodungalloor, near Thrissur. Known as the Kodungalloor Bharani, this is one of Kerala's most famous and intense celebrations. It occurs during the Malayalam month of Meenam (March-April). THULASI KAKKAT

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 4, 1975

Pro-Sihanouk forces enter Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh, April 3: Heavy fighting was reported north and north-west of Phnom Penh to-day with pro-Sihanouk forces penetrating the city's defence lines at one point. Government troops also gave up further ground south of the encircled capital, military sources said.

Early to-day, Red Khmer artillery knocked out two Cambodian Air Force planes at the Pochentong airport here in a heavy rocket and cannon barrage. The attack lasted two hours.

A total of more than 60 Red Khmer rockets and 105 mm artillery fire fell in Phnom Penh from dawn on Wednesday till this morning, most of it at the airport, the city's only link to the outside world.

Fighting continued on the east bank of the Mekong river upsite the capital, where the Government now holds only a 10-km stretch on the bank.

A naval base on a peninsula which lies between the Mekong and the city was under fire from 120 mm heavy mortars. The east bank is about four km from the city and well within range of the mortars, which are more accurate than the Chinese-made 107 mm rockets used until now by the Red Khmers.

Ground and shelling attacks were reported at the province towns of Kompong Speu, 40 km southwest of Phnom Penh, Batambang and Siem Reap, 240 km northwest and Kampot, 125 km southeast.

In Bangkok, the Thai Premier, Mr. Kukrit Pramoj told newsmen to-day that pro-Sihanouk forces were entering the Cambodian capital. He left a National Assembly meeting immediately after receiving the information and told reporters that he was rushing to the Government House for more details.

He did not say who gave him the information about the situation in Phnom Penh.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 4, 1925

Damages to Indian roads A suggested remedy

The special damage caused to Indian roads by certain classes of traffic is very serious one both for the tax-payers and for the ordinary road user. A remedy by which those who cause the damage may be called upon to bear the cost is found in the English law.

In Section 23 of an English Act of Parliament passed in 1878, and called the Highways and Locomotive (Amendment) Act, provision is made for the recovery of extra-ordinary expenses which have been incurred in the repair of a highway by reason of the damage caused by excessive weight or extraordinary traffic, the person by whose order such traffic has been put upon the road being made liable to pay the extra-ordinary expenses incurred in the repair of the road.

From Page One

Delhi holds fire as Trump slaps tariffs

South Korea's Acting President Han Duck-soo ordered support for the country's domestic auto industry, among the worst affected. Incidentally, Russia, which has minimal trade with the U.S. of just $3.5 billion, did not feature on the tariff list at all.

In Delhi, officials pointed out that the U.S.'s penalty of 27% adjusted tariffs for India was lower than other Asian and South Asian countries that are Indian rivals for exports, including Vietnam (46%), Thailand (37%), Bangladesh (37%), Sri Lanka (44%) and Pakistan (30%), which could give India some "comparative advantages".

India's diamond and jewellery sector could be hit hard. The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said that, given the tariffs, it will be a challenge to sustain India's current export volume of $10 billion to the U.S market. The United States accounts for more than 30% of India's annual gems and jewellery exports of $32 billion.

"We urge the Government of India to progress the Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and the U.S., as it would be crucial in navigating the tariff issues and securing long term interest of the sector," the Council said in a press statement.

Industries take stock

The auto industry, however, does not expect to face any significant impact from the reciprocal tariff as automobiles and auto parts were not covered by it.

The developments could exacerbate supply chain challenges for aerospace manufacturer Boeing, resulting in aircraft delivery delays.

In his remarks, Mr. Trump named India along with Thailand and Vietnam as examples of what he called "vicious attacks" on U.S. workers, using the tariffs on motorcycles as an example. In fact, the Modi government has lowered tariffs on foreign motorcycles down from 100% in 2017 in a series of cuts; in the latest Union Budget in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reduced those tariffs from 50% to 30%.

In the executive order Mr. Trump signed shortly after the announcement, the White House said that "addressing trade imbalances" was a major priority, comparing India's simple average most-favored-nation (MFN) tariff rate of 17% with China's 7.5% and the EU's 5% as "significantly higher" than the U.S.'s 3.3%. It also criticised India, among other countries, for high tariffs on items like cars, network switches and routers, rice in the husk, and apples, citing the USTR's report on "Foreign Trade Barriers" released earlier this week.

Expect Telangana CM to exercise restraint: SC

Hearing petitions seeking timely action by Speaker on disqualification proceedings against 10 MLAs, court takes exception to comments by Revanth Reddy that he was speaking on behalf of the Speaker, dismissing the possibility of byelection even if the legislators had defected to the Congress

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it had the power and a duty to ensure that Speakers, acting as a quasi-judicial tribunal under the anti-defection law of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, do not sit over disqualification petitions till they "die a natural death" towards the end of the tenure of the House before "throwing them in the dustbin".

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai said the Supreme Court would not remain a silent spectator and watch from the gallery as a Speaker waited till six months before the end of the tenure of a Legislative Assembly only to say "now there is no time left".

Justice Gavai firmly said the court would not allow the Tenth Schedule to be reduced to a mockery.

The top court is hearing petitions filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao and Padi Kaushik Reddy, seeking timely action by the Telangana Assembly Speaker on disqualification proceedings pending against 10 MLAs who shifted allegiance to the ruling Congress in the State.

The hearing is centred on the question whether Constitutional courts cannot direct Speakers to decide disqualification petitions within a specified period. The court has upped the ante with this case. In past cases, the top court had stopped short with requesting Speakers to decide such petitions within a "reasonable time" without daring to dictate a deadline.

> The Supreme Court would not remain a silent spectator and watch from the gallery as a Speaker waited till six months before the end of the tenure of a Legislative Assembly only to say 'now there is no time left'
>
> SUPREME COURT BENCH

"We had in the beginning of this case asked if the Speaker was willing to make a statement regarding the period by which he could decide the petitions... Mr. Rohatgi [senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appearing for respondents including the Speaker and the Secretary of Telangana Assembly] had said he had no instructions... So, now we will lay down the period," Justice Gavai addressed senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, also for the respondents.

During the hearing, the Bench took strong exception after senior advocate C.A. Sundaram, for the petitioners, drew its attention to comments reportedly made on the floor of the House by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who had said he was speaking on behalf of the Speaker, dismissing the possibility of any byelection even if the BRS MLAs had defected to the ruling Congress party in the State.

Justice Gavai recounted that the top court had let off Mr. Reddy on an earlier occasion, in September 2024, when he had apologised for his comments on the court's order granting bail to BRS leader K. Kavitha in the Delhi excise policy case.

"We expect the Chief Minister to exercise some restraint. Did we commit a mistake by letting him off in the contempt case? We are really not bothered about what politicians say about us... We exercise self-restraint. The same is expected of the other two wings [executive and legislature]," Justice Gavai voiced the court's annoyance.

The court reserved the case for judgment.

SC confirms *en bloc* cancellation of nearly 24,000 teachers' appointments in Bengal

Krishnadas Rajagopal

In a blow to the West Bengal government, the Supreme Court, in a judgment on Thursday, upheld a Calcutta High Court decision cancelling *en bloc* a "tainted" selection process that saw the appointments of nearly 24,000 teachers and non-teaching staff in government and aided schools across the State.

On April 22, 2024, the High Court had ordered the invalidation of all 23,123 appointments of teaching and non-teaching staffers, whether tainted or not.

The recruitments, made in 2016 by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC), were linked to the cash-for-school jobs recruitment "scam".

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar agreed with the High Court finding that the selection process was vitiated and riddled with manipulations and fraud. Attempts were made to cover up the fraud, which has only further denuded its credibility and legitimacy of the selection process.

Aggrieved teachers in Bengal who lost their jobs after the SC verdict. DEBASISH BHADURI

The Supreme Court judgment, authored by the Chief Justice of India, found "no valid ground or reason to interfere with the direction of the High Court that the services of the tainted candidates must be terminated and they should refund their salaries and payments received."

"Their appointments were the result of fraud, this amounts to cheating," Chief Justice Khanna, who authored the judgment, observed.

Chief Justice Khanna declared that the entire selection process would be null and void for even candidates who were not specifically found tainted. The apex court said the egregious violations and illegalities found in the selection process violated Article 14 (right to equality) and Article 16 (right to equal opportunity in public employment) of the Constitution.

The apex court directed that no further appointments should be made on the basis of this selection process.

CPC for strengthening ties between India, China

B. Kolappan
MADURAI

An improving China-India relationship serves the common interests of both countries and the region at a time the international landscape and world order are now in a new round of transformation, the Communist Party of China (CPC) said in its message to the 24th congress of the CPI(M) taking place in Madurai.

"The CPC and the CPI (M) have long maintained friendly exchanges, which has played a significant role for facilitating mutual understanding and practical cooperation between our two sides," read the message of the International Department, Central Committee, CPC.

The CPC said in the new circumstances it was ready to strengthen exchanges and strategic communication as well as experience sharing of party and state governance with the CPI (M) and other political parties, so as to promote continued progress of China-India relations as well as stability of the region.

One of the important aspects of the CPI(M) congress in the past was visit of delegates from Communist countries and representatives from communist parties across the world. Their visit is no longer taking place. Instead the parties are sending their greetings, Communist parties from 34 countries have sent their messages.

T.N. moved resolution against delimitation to protect State autonomy: Stalin at CPI(M) meet

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

"The Tamil Nadu government's resolution against delimitation is to protect State autonomy and fight anti-federal activities of the BJP in the Centre," Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Thursday.

He spoke at the seminar on "India's strength is federalism" organised by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) as part of the 24th party congress in Madurai on Thursday.

Taking stance: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Madurai on Thursday. G. MOORTHY

The fight against the Central government's authoritarianism started way back in 1974 when the then Chief Minister and DMK founder, C.N. Annadurai, passed a resolution in the State Assembly for the State's autonomy, he recalled. But the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi by proposing ideas such as "one country, one election, one culture" was striving for the creation of a unitary system, Mr. Stalin noted.

Stressing that such moves would only lead to fascism, Mr. Stalin proposed that the only way to destroy their efforts was through constant campaign and a change in governance in the Centre.

'Unitary polity'

His Kerala counterpart, Pinarayi Vijayan, echoed the sentiment. The Indian Constitution was framed under abnormal circumstances, such as large-scale communal violence and bloodshed following Partition, and the framers gave it strong centralising features. But the political scenario had become "more unitary in nature" even during these normal times, the Kerala Chief Minister said.

He stated that Article 356 was the most overused provision of the Constitution. Mr. Vijayan said its overuse had belied the hopes of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar that the Article would remain a dead letter.

Dr. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly spoke on the "limited scope" of Central authority in determination of standards of higher education, "but the present draft University Grants Commission regulations attempt to totally exclude the State from having any role in university matters," he said.

Karnataka Minister M.C. Sudhakar; CPI(M) leaders Prakash Karat, K. Balakrishnan, and P. Shanmugam; and Madurai MP Su. Venkatesan were present at the event.

'Federalism under most serious attack since Independence'

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

Never since the Independence and adoption of the Constitution in 1950 has there been such a serious attack on Federalism, which is a basic principle of the Constitution, said senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Prakash Karat on Thursday.

He spoke at the seminar on "India's strength is federalism" organised by the CPI(M) as part of the 24th party congress in Madurai.

Today, in every aspect of Centre-State relations, be it political or economic or fiscal, the Union government has been systematically undermining the federal principle, he charged. The Constitution says India is a union of States, but today, the States which comprise the Union are being reduced to subordinate status and "have to go as mendicants" to get resources and funds which are their right, Mr. Karat said.

"In Kerala, after the Wayanad disaster [landslides], despite intervention of the High Court of Kerala, the State has not got the funds required for rehabilitation," he added.

It is good that State governments are fighting for federalism, which also means a fight for democracy, he said.

Ministry restarts Gorkhaland talks

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday resumed dialogue with Gorkha representatives after a gap of more than three years to address the issues concerning the community. The Chief Secretary of West Bengal did not turn up for the scheduled "tripartite meeting".

In the meeting chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, the delegation which included the BJP MP from Darjeeling, Raju Bista, demanded a permanent solution to the Gorkhaland (separate State for Gorkhas) issue and grant of Scheduled Tribe status to 11 Gorkha sub-communities.

Nityanand Rai

The Ministry said Mr. Bista highlighted various issues of Gorkhas and the region, and sought resolution. BJP MLA from Darjeeling Neeraj Zimba said the meeting was productive but not conclusive.

When asked if a Union Territory-like arrangement was on the cards, Mr. Zimba said, "A UT without legislative Assembly will not fulfil the aspirations of the people, like what has happened in Ladak."

In a possible turnaround for ties, Modi and Yunus to have talks in Bangkok

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus for talks on Friday, for the first time since the interim government took charge after the ouster of former PM Sheikh Hasina last July. The leaders attended a BRICS Summit banquet on Thursday evening, where Mr. Modi was seated, flanked by Mr. Yunus on one side, and Nepal PM K.P. Sharma Oli on the other.

The meeting, on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok, is significant as it follows months of tensions between Dhaka and Delhi over attacks on minorities and Ms. Hasina's continued stay in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus at BIMSTEC Summit dinner. CHIEFADVISERGOB/X

Mr. Yunus's comments about including India's northeastern region and Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh as an "extension of the Chinese economy" during a visit to Beijing this week had also led to misgivings in Delhi.

Sources confirmed the meeting has been scheduled around noon on Friday, and Mr. Modi will meet the leaders of all BIMSTEC countries during his visit.

Strategic Partnership

After bilateral talks between Mr. Modi and Thai PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra Thursday, India and Thailand upgraded ties to a "Strategic Partnership", and exchanged agreements on cooperation in digital technology, industries, handicrafts and the development of India's northeastern States.

On Friday, Mr. Modi will speak at the BIMSTEC Summit plenary session.

Mr. Modi is meeting Sri Lankan PM Harini Amarasuriya as well as Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay. Mr. Modi is expected to meet Mr. Oli. The sources said a meeting between Mr. Modi and Myanmar junta's PM and commander-in-chief General Min Aung Hlaing is also on the cards, which would be another first high-level engagement with Myanmar's military regime that seized power in 2021.

Lok Sabha passes Coastal Shipping Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha passed the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 on Thursday, creating a legal framework for coastal trade even as the maritime sector aims to provide an economical, reliable and sustainable mode of transportation, allowing the decongestion of the road and rail network.

"The Bill seeks to unlock the full potential of India's strategic coastline, providing a dedicated legal framework for coastal trade," Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, said

APPEAL

Master Devansh Vaswani, UHID No. 12989353, 10 years old son of Deepak Kumar Vaswani admitted Fortis Memorial Research Institute is a known case of BETA Thalassemia. He has a potential matched unrelated donor & requires stem cell transplant as curative therapy. The estimated cost of the transplant is approximately **Rs. 35,00,000/-.**
Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/ D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Devansh Vaswani. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi.** All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.
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After LS passage, Waqf Bill sees a heated debate in Rajya Sabha

Rijiju says Bill ushers in transparency; Opposition objects to provisions such as inclusion of non-Muslims on Waqf Boards, government interference, restriction on donation only by a person who has been a practising Muslim for at least five years

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The government reiterated in the Rajya Sabha that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is not anti-Muslim and ushers in transparency while the Opposition alleged that the Bill is aimed at reducing Muslims to "second-class citizens". It questioned both the "intent and content" of the Bill, amid intense debate on Thursday.

The Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha after a debate that lasted over 12 hours, with 288 votes in favour and 232 against. The debate that began on Wednesday afternoon went past midnight.

The BJP and its allies have a majority in Rajya Sabha and the Bill is expected to sail through.

Some of the Opposition MPs in the Upper House were wearing black as a mark of protest. Placing the Bill for debate in the Upper House, Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju said the Bill was not aimed at hurting the rights of Muslims. Instead it was to bring in transparency and accountability.

'Vote bank politics': Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain says the amendments are aimed at stoking communal polarisation. PTI

Opening the attack, Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain called it a "targeted legislation against the Muslim community" and intends to make Muslims second-class citizens. He alleged that the ruling party brought the legislation in 2024 in order to strengthen its vote bank as it was only able to win 240 seats in the Lok Sabha election. "Everybody knows who benefits when communal polarisation takes place," the Congress leader said. Mr. Hussain, pointing at the inclusion of non-Muslims in the Waqf Board as per the proposed law, asked, "Will you allow me to be part of a Hindu temple trust?"

The "Waqf By User" clause has been removed in the Bill, Mr. Hussain said. How will temples, churches or even gurudwaras which have been around for centuries be able to provide proof, he said.

Referring to Mr. Hussain's statement, Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda attacked the Congress, accusing it of reducing the Muslim women to "second-grade citizens". He said that other Muslim countries had brought in reforms far before India did.

The Opposition picked on various aspects of the Bill. RJD MP Manoj K. Jha highlighted the various incidents of mistreatment of minorities across the country. He also said that the provision of nomination of non-Muslims in Waqf board is being dressed as a secular clause, except such a provision is not available in endowment boards of other religions. Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi also pointed out Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP president Chandrababu Naidu's objection on inclusion of non-Hindu in the Tirupati Board.

The BJP ministers and leaders during the debate highlighted the lack of monetisation of the Waqf properties. Countering this Samajwadi Party MP Javed Ali Khan said that 60% of the Waqf properties are graveyards.

Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi said when the Lok Sabha was busy passing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, U.S. President Donald Trump had announced reciprocal tariffs. He said the government will have to decide on its priorities.

Earlier, Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh's remarks, that the government is keen to protect Waqf property while allowing scams in temple properties, alleging a 13,000-acre land scam in Ayodhya, drew loud protests from Treasury benches.

Non-Muslims will not have majority in Central Waqf Council, says Kiren Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday rejected the Opposition's allegations that the Waqf (amendment) Bill was aimed at grabbing Muslims' land or their right.

Tabling the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister sought to allay the fears that non-Muslims would become the deciding authority in the Central Waqf Council and that the properties that had been in use for long but had no deed papers would be endangered.

Mr. Rijiju sought to clear the air on inclusion of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council, underlining that Muslims would remain in majority in the council and the fear around this was unfounded.

He also clarified that the proposed legislation had nothing to do with religion but dealt only with properties. The Minister informed the House that there were 4.9 lakh waqf properties in 2004, which had now increased to 8.72 lakh. The waqf properties, as per the available data, he said, was the largest chunk of properties in the country, apart from Defence and Railways.

Before Elders: Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju addressing the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. PTI/SANSAD TV

Refuting claims that "Muslims will be harmed by the step we are taking", Mr. Rijiju said, "Very categorically, I want to reject all these allegations."

He underlined that the amendment was introduced in the Bill after it went through Parliamentary scrutiny in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which suggested that the Bill should not be implemented retrospectively.

He further said out of 22 members in the Central Waqf Council, not more than four would be non-Muslims, including ex-officio members, besides three members of Parliament who could be of any religion. The Council must include two women members, he added.

The question of the majority being non-Muslims did not arise, he reiterated.

BJP trying to snatch rights of Muslims, says Brinda Karat

S. Anandan
MADURAI

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill shows that the Bharatiya Janata Party is "using a bulldozer against the believers of Islam and snatching away their constitutional rights", CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat said on Thursday.

Describing the legislation as an assault on the Constitution and the rights of minorities, Ms. Karat said her party would use every forum available to fight the Bill.

"If there are any issues in the functioning of an institution, there are always avenues of reform, but these should be decided in consultation with those involved," she said, on the sidelines of the 24th party congress.

She said the draft political resolution introduced at the party congress did speak about the atrocities against religious minorities, including Christians.

Asked about the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers' ongoing protest in Kerala, Ms. Karat said ASHA workers in every Indian State were extremely exploited.

Ms. Karat also slammed the Centre for its perceived craven attitude towards reciprocal tariffs on Indian imports announced by the U.S. President Donald Trump.

DMK will move SC against Waqf Bill; amendments will hit Muslims: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday announced in the State Assembly that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) will move the Supreme Court against the 'controversial' Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was passed in the Lok Sabha well past midnight after a 12-hour-long debate on Wednesday.

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly on March 27, urging the Centre to completely withdraw the Bill, Mr. Stalin said: "The proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995, are detrimental to the religious harmony of India and will severely impact the minority Muslim community."

> A total of 232 MPs voted against the Bill, while 288 MPs voted in favour. Though the Bill has been passed, the number of those who voted against it is not small
>
> **M.K. STALIN**
> Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

He said most of the political parties in India had opposed the Bill. "Despite this, the amendment Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, which is highly condemnable. A total of 232 MPs voted against the Bill, while 288 MPs voted in favour. Although the amendment Bill has been passed, the number of those who voted against it is not small. This amendment Bill should not just be opposed but should be completely withdrawn," the Chief Minister said.

'Attack on Constitution'

"Despite the opposition of most of the political parties in India, and with the support of a few coalition parties, this Bill was passed around 2 a.m. This is an attack on the Constitution of India. It is an action that undermines religious harmony. Tamil Nadu will fight against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which undermines the autonomy of the Waqf Board and creates threats for the minority Muslim community. We will fight and we will win," he said.

As a mark of protest against the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues, and MLAs of the DMK and its allies participated in the Assembly proceedings wearing black badges.

All the other political parties, including the AIADMK, the principal opposition party, welcomed the Chief Minister's announcement, condemning the passage of the Bill.

Opposing the Chief Minister's speech, BJP MLAs staged a walkout. BJP State president K. Annamalai, in a social media post, alleged that "the DMK is staging a drama to save a portion of their minority vote bank".

Waqf Bill is a BJP ploy for permanent polarisation: Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is a "brazen assault" on the Constitution and is part of the BJP's strategy to keep Indian society in a state of "permanent polarisation", Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Thursday. She said the Congress would also oppose the proposed legislation for simultaneous elections to Parliament and the Assemblies.

Ms. Gandhi was addressing a meeting of Congress MPs at the historic Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building, hours after the Lok Sabha passed the Waqf Bill.

"Yesterday [Wednesday], the Wakf Amendment Bill, 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha, and today it is scheduled to come up in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill was in effect bulldozed through. Our party's position is clear. The Bill is a brazen assault on the Constitution itself. It is very much part of the BJP's deliberate strategy to keep our society in a state of permanent polarisation," she alleged.

Sonia Gandhi

"The One Nation, One Election Bill is another subversion of the Constitution. We strongly oppose this legislation as well."

She accused the Modi government of "wilfully" ignoring the Opposition's demand to immediately implement the law on reservation for women in the legislatures. Ms. Gandhi said the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were "not being allowed to speak". She expressed concern over the functioning of the Election Commission.

"Whether it is education, civil rights and liberties, our federal structure or conduct of elections, the Modi government is dragging the country into an abyss where our Constitution will remain on paper and we know their intention is to demolish even that," Ms. Gandhi said.

SC Full Court resolves to publish assets of judges

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

All 33 serving Supreme Court judges agreed in a Full Court meeting held on April 1 to make their assets public on the court website. The decision has come in the wake of the controversy regarding the finding of half-burnt cash on the residential premises of a High Court judge.

Unlike politicians and bureaucrats, judges do not have to mandatorily put their assets in the public domain. A Full Court Resolution of May 7, 1997 headed by the then Chief Justice of India J.S. Verma decided that judges must declare to the Chief Justice of India their assets "in the form of real estate or investments held by them or their spouses or dependents within a reasonable time of assuming office". The declarion would remain confidential.

Another Resolution was on devising an "in-house procedure" to take action against judges who did not follow the universal values of judicial life.

BJD, BRS, YSRCP oppose Waqf Bill, cite inclusion of non-Muslims on Board

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Biju Janata Dal, Bharat Rashtra Samithi and YSR Congress Party, Opposition parties not in the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, on Thursday opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha, objecting to the clauses concerning inclusion of non-Muslims on the Waqf Board, restriction that only individuals who have practised Islam for at least five years can donate property, and alleged interference by the government.

The three parties together have 18 members in the Upper House. Out of the three parties, the BJD and the YSRCP did not issue a whip leaving it to their members to decide their vote on the Bill.

YSRCP MP Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy countered the government's claim that wide consultations were conducted on the Bill. Mr. Reddy said the concern expressed by several Muslim organisations were met with indifference, and accused the Telugu Desam Party of failing to safeguard the interests of 50 lakh Muslims in Andhra Pradesh. The Bill is unconstitutional since it infringes on fundamental rights, he said.

Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy

Autonomy of board

"Inclusion of non-Muslims on the Waqf Boards is a direct infringement on the autonomy of the Boards. The Bill also cripples the financial stability of the Waqf Boards," he said.

Allowing only a person who has been practising Islam for at least five years to donate property is unjust, Mr. Reddy further said.

BJD MP Muzibulla Khan said Muslims across the country were tense anticipating trouble because of the provision allowing inclusion of non-Muslims on the Waqf Board. "We don't know what these non-Muslims will do," he said.

"We do not always have places to pray. Processions of all religions go through the road. But we regularly see that a Muslim is beaten up for reading *namaz*. This feeling of fear has to be addressed," Mr. Khan said.

The BJD member questioned the clause that only a person practising Islam for at least five years can donate. "Now where will we bring the proof of being a Muslim. Do we wear a cap or grow a beard to prove that," he asked.

BRS MP K.R. Suresh Reddy said the Bill using a facade of progressiveness was actually aimed at propagating polarisation.

Sources said the INDIA bloc had reached out to these parties in the hope of shoring up its numbers.

Systematic erosion of freedom of speech, says K.C. Venugopal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress leader said whenever somebody talked against the BJP, they were threatened

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Thursday said India was witnessing a "systematic" erosion of freedom of speech, and cited the example of the Malayalam movie *L2: Empuraan* which underwent voluntary cuts following protests.

Raising the matter during Zero Hour, Mr. Venugopal said this was an alarming crisis that threatened the very soul of Indian democracy.

"The systematic erosion of freedom of speech is happening in our country. Whether it is in social media, movies or media," he said.

Empuraan row

"In Kerala, we witnessed a serious attack on a movie named *L2: Empuraan*. Why has that attack happened? The film has got censorship certificate from the censor Board where BJP leaders are sitting." They (Central Board of Film Certification) have given clearance for the film Alappuzha MP said.

"Now they have been forced to cut 24 parts in the film. Actually, it is a shame for the nation. After censor Board gave the certificate, and the film had begun screening, but a systematic attack has happened on the actors, producers and directors of the film, as some people thought this is not good for them as that film narrates the Gujarat riots", he said, adding, this was a systematic attack on the freedom of expression.

Mr. Venugopal said whenever somebody talked against the BJP or the government, they were threatened and attacked.

"This is going to ruin our democratic values."

Following protests from right wing groups, the Malayalam movie was re-released in theatres with voluntary cuts that add up to 128 seconds of footage.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE, JAIPUR
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No.-F(367&368)/ACE/JPR/Acctts/2024-25/7246 **Date: 26.03.2025**
e-NIB No - 16/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work of -
1. **Repair, Renovation and Restoration work of Sangram Sagar Niwariya Dam and Canal, Tehsil Deoli District Tonk.-** Estimated value of wrok is **Rs. 425.62 Lac.**
2. **Repair, Renovation and Restoration work of Panwar Sagar Dam and Canal, Tehsil Deoli District Tonk. -** Estimated value of work is **Rs. 605.25 Lac.**

Last date of submission of Bid is **21.04.2025**. Detailed Bid & Bid document can be seen on & downloaded from official website (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, & http://sppp.raj.nic.in)
UBN No.:- WRD2425WLOB01876, WRD2425WSOB01875
NIB Code No.:-WRD2425A0534
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/4542/2025 **WRD, Zone Jaipur**

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-Tender Notice
O/o THE DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL CIRCLE, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI
E Tender ID No. **2025_KSEB_753748_1**, PAC: **Rs. 5,57,55,000/-**, Last Date: **09.04.2025, 11.00 am. Name of Work:** Supply and Construction of 11 KV line using HT Covered Conductor on TURNKEY basis under Dyuthi Special scheme at various locations of Electrical Division Kattapana & Peermade under Electrical Circle, Thodupuzha.
E Tender ID No. **2025_KSEB_754649_1**, PAC: **Rs. 14,63,14,682/-**, Last Date: **11.04.2025, 05.00 pm. Name of Work:** Supply of Materials, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Work Construction of LT Three phase and Single phase line, Conversion of single phase line to Three phase line and Reconductoring of Single phase and Three phase line by using Covered Conductor Rabbit on turkey basis at ES Vandanmedu (Dyuthi Special) - package1 under Electrical Circle, Thodupuzha.
E Tender ID No. **2025_KSEB_754851_1**, PAC: **Rs. 7,46,92,000/-**, Last Date: **15.04.2025, 11.00 am. Name of Work:** Supply Construction Conversion and Reconductoring of LT ABC on TURNKEY basis at different locations of Sections in Electrical Division Kattappana under Electrical Circle Thodupuzha - Package 3
E Tender ID No. **2025_KSEB_755431_1**, PAC: **Rs. 10,51,57,000/-**, Last Date: **19.04.2025, 03.00 pm. Name of Work:** Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Work - Construction conversion reconductoring of LT line using Covered Conductor Rabbit on turnkey basis at various locations of Electrical Division, Kattappana under Electrical Circle, Thodupuzha- Dyuthi Special - Package 2.
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in** Ref: **PR/MC1/E550/E-tender/2025**

INBRIEF

Meghwal maintains silence on bringing fresh NJAC Bill

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday maintained silence in the Rajya Sabha on whether the government would bring in a fresh Bill to set up a National Judicial Appointments Committee (NJAC) to replace the existing collegium system. In a written response to a question from Biju Janata Dal (BJD) member Sasmit Patra on the government's view on a fresh NJAC Bill, Mr. Meghwal gave a detailed reply on what the now struck-down law proposed to do but evaded a specific reply on bringing back NJAC. The NJAC has come into focus again after half-burnt wads of currency notes were allegedly found in the official residence of a Delhi High Court judge.

Opposition walks out of RS over MP's remarks on Kharge

The Opposition staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday over controversial remarks by BJP MP Anurag Thakur in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday against Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House Mallikarjun Kharge. Mr. Kharge challenged Mr. Thakur to prove the allegations, which were expunged later, or resign. The Congress president, citing his five decades of experience in politics, added that he will resign if there is an iota of evidence in what Mr. Thakur had said. He also demanded an apology from BJP president and Leader of the House J.P. Nadda. When Mr. Nadda did not rise to speak, the Opposition walked out of the House.

It's time to 'dump' WTO and TRIPS, says SJM

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Noting that U.S. President Donald Trump's new tariffs are tantamount to a total disregard of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Sangh Parivar's (RSS) economic wing said on Thursday that India should follow suit and "dump" the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

TRIPS is the WTO's comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property, not always weighted in favour of developing nations.

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) economist and co-convener Ashwani Mahajan told *The Hindu* that India had paid a heavy cost for complying with these international agreements that the U.S. now seems to be discarding.

"We signed WTO, and we were given higher bound tariffs for the reason that we had accepted, the TRIPS, TRIMS, services and agriculture in General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the agreement on TRIPS had cost us heavily in terms of outgo of royalty. We have approximately gone from a negligible amount of royalty to $17 billion dollars plus," Mr. Mahajan said.

U.S. tariffs will 'devastate' Indian economy, says Rahul

Cong. leader seeks answer from government on its response to the 'sudden' decision by its 'ally'; on China, he says that before ties can be normalised, it should return the land it had taken over

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, said in the Lok Sabha on Thursday that reciprocal tariffs imposed by the U.S. would "completely devastate" the Indian economy, and sought an answer from the government on its response to the "sudden" decision by its "ally".

Speaking during Zero Hour, Mr. Gandhi said China had taken over 4,000 square kilometres of Indian territory. While the Congress was not against a move towards normalisation of relations with China, the land should first be returned, he added.

Mr. Gandhi contrasted the government's approach, stating that on the one hand, it had allowed China to take "our land", while on the other, India's "ally U.S. has suddenly decided to impose tariffs on us".

He demanded that the Centre provide answers regarding "what is it doing about our land and about these tariffs that our ally has imposed on us". He alleged that the BJP tended to "bow its head in front of every foreigner".

Voicing concerns: Rahul Gandhi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Mr. Gandhi warned that the tariffs imposed by the U.S. were going to "completely devastate" the Indian economy, particularly sectors such as the automotive industry, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture.

Recalling an anecdote, Mr. Gandhi told the Lok Sabha, "Somebody once asked Indira Gandhi*ji*, 'In the matter of foreign policy do you lean left or do you lean right?' and Indira Gandhi*ji* answered, 'I don't lean left or right, I stand straight. I am Indian and I stand straight.'"

He contrasted this with what he claimed was the philosophy of the BJP and the RSS. "When they are asked whether they lean left or right, they say, 'No, no, no, we bow our head in front of every foreigner that comes in front of us,'" he alleged. Turning pointedly to the border situation, he said, "I was shocked some time back to see that our Foreign Secretary [Vikram Misri] was cutting a cake with the Chinese Ambassador. The question is, what exactly is happening to this territory that China has taken?"

Referring to the 2020 Galwan Valley incident where 20 Indian soldiers were killed, he said, "There is a celebration taking place over their martyrdom by cutting a cake." He alleged that the news of written conversations between the Prime Minister and the President with the Chinese has originated from the Chinese ambassador.

BJP response

The BJP strongly rebutted the Congress leader's assertions. Party MP Anurag Thakur stated that "not an inch of land" had been ceded to China under the current government's rule. "They [the Congress] kept talking about Hindi-*Chini bhai bhai* and stabbed us in the back," Mr. Thakur said, questioning Mr. Gandhi's own meeting with Chinese officials during the Doklam stand-off. He also raised questions about the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation allegedly receiving funds from Chinese sources.

"Under Modi government, we can say the Indian Army gave a befitting reply during Doklam. The PM went to the border and boosted the morale of the armed forces. The Defence Minister also went... not even a single inch of land anybody has been able to take," he said.

EPFO nixes 2 more claim settlement requirements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has further simplified the claim settlement process here on Thursday by removing the requirement of uploading an image of a cheque leaf or attested bank passbook while filing online claims. The requirement of employer approval for seeding bank account details with the Universal Account Number (UAN) has also been removed.

Announcing the decision, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said these measures will significantly streamline the process of claim settlement and reduce grievances related to claim rejections.

The Union Labour Ministry said in a statement that by removing the requirement of uploading an image of a cheque, around six crore members will benefit. It said the move will eliminate rejections due to poor-quality uploads and reducing associated grievances. "This requirement was initially relaxed on a pilot basis for certain KYC-updated members. Since its launch on May 28, 2024, the move has benefited 1.7 crore EPF members," the statement said.

Kerala, T.N., Bengal got no funds under SSA: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal received zero funds under the Union Education Ministry's Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan for the financial year 2024-25 until March 27, Minister of State for Education Jayant Choudhary said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. He was replying to a question by CPI(M) MP John Brittas.

Jayant Chaudhary

While the three States had been allocated ₹328.9 crore, ₹2,151.6 crore, and ₹1,745.8 crore, respectively, the funds had not been released, he said.

The Tamil Nadu government has been at loggerheads with the Centre after funds were stopped for its refusal to implement the three-language formula under the new National Education Policy and sign a memorandum of understanding on building PM-SHRI schools.

The data shared in the Upper House says out of ₹45,830.21 crore allocated for 36 States and Union Territories, ₹27,833.5 crore had been released until March 27. Uttar Pradesh received the largest allocation of ₹6,971.26 crore, out of which ₹4,487.46 crore had been released till date.

The reply states that funds were released based on the pace of expenditure and receipt of commensurate State share, audited accounts, statement on outstanding advances, upto-date expenditure statement, audited utilisation certificate of previous years and so on.

"The withholding of funds is severely impacting teachers' salaries, RTE reimbursements, and transportation for students in remote areas," a parliamentary Standing Committee report on the issue had earlier noted. The committee had observed that withholding funds for not entering into an MoU for separate schemes such as PM SHRI is "not justifiable". The committee has recommended immediate release of pending funds to the States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to prevent disruption in salaries, teachers' training and so on.

Cong. slams discussion of President's Rule at 2 a.m.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Questioning the decision to discuss the statutory resolution on the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur in the early hours of Thursday, the Congress on Thursday accused the Centre of "bulldozing" the resolution. "Home Minister Amit Shah's moving of resolution at 2 a.m. to further extend President's Rule in Manipur is an insult to the people of Manipur," said Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress.

"...why bulldoze the proclamation on President's Rule at 2AM, leaving just an hour for debate but just about enough time for the Home Minister's falsehoods, twists, and distortions? This is adding insult to injury," said Jairam Ramesh of the party on X.

No violence reported in Manipur in past four months, says Amit Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that no violence had been reported in Manipur in the past four months, and the Ministry would soon convene a meeting of the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities to find a lasting solution in the northeastern State.

He said President's Rule was imposed when a majority of the MLAs said they were not in a position to form the government after the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on February 9.

"We want restoration of peace at the earliest, to heal the wounds," Mr. Shah said.

He moved the statutory resolution on proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur in the Lok Sabha around 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

Proactive measure: A meeting of the agitating groups in Manipur will be called to find a solution, Amit Shah said in Lok Sabha. ANI

The resolution, "That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 13th February, 2025 under Article 356(1) of the Constitution in relation to the State of Manipur", was approved by the Lok Sabha.

More than 250 people had been killed in the ethnic violence between the Meitei and the tribal Kuki-Zo people that erupted in the State on May 3, 2023.

Mr. Shah said that a Manipur High Court order on reservation which was interpreted differently by both the communities triggered the violence. "I want to make it clear that it was not a case of riot or terrorism, it is ethnic violence which erupted due to the interpretation of a High Court order," he said.

"In the past four months, there has been no violence. Food and medicines have been ensured in relief camps. Online facilities for technical and medical education are in place and provision for primary education has also been made at the camps," the Minister said. No politics should be done as violence has been reported in the State in the past as well.

Shashi Tharoor of the Congress said the party supported the resolution, and the Centre should initiate dialogue between the two communities.

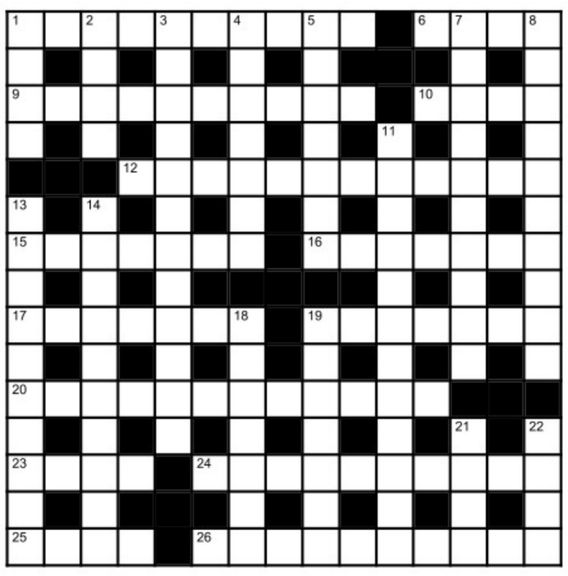
"Use President's Rule to restore legitimacy of the State of India in Manipur. No one should go through what the people of Manipur have gone through," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14450

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Put down a seed in humid ground - it dutifully starts popping out (10)
6 Powder's no good for skin (4)
9 Girl running after Princess', causing shame (10)
10 Boil leek evenly to release bitterness (4)
12 Yuppie's starting to show-off borrowed item with passion (6,6)
15 Nothing green lay vacant out in the open (7)
16 Brownian motion of small molecule releasing energy - it comes wrapped in a shell (7)
17 Genre of music little heavy with rhythm, mainly and snap (7)
19 Raids find desi currency, not pound... lots! (7)
20 Corruption at police department reviewed by head of security in totalitarian government (12)
23 Bird - one often blips (4)
24 Medicine to walk sexily results in intimate conversation (6,4)
25 Lady's a joke, in retrospect (4)
26 Nobleman now suffers, having controlled, yet not essentially annexed seat of power (6,4)

Down

1 Father mainly occupied with woodwork (4)
2 Buddha's philosophy contains a catch (4)
3 MyTailor: medieval drama? (8,4)
4 Honey producer caught next to houses with a bit of yoghurt (7)
5 Ray's pastry junction, according to Spooner (7)
7 Setter's doctor cures aging & loss of energy with an unhealthy sweet (5,5)
8 Established rules expected to be followed by expert at tax (3,7)
11 Fickle liberal starting to complain about a scheme for mountain transport (5,7)
13 Grim order - female soldiers should go up front (10)
14 After online rejection, desperate to be attractive (10)
18 Condition for travel permit - mostly nothing (7)
19 Great deal of abuse and crime releases bit of stress hormone (7)
21 Famous computer circuit has glowing light (4)
22 Hide at hint of spouse's family (4)

SUDOKU

			5				7	
	2			7	3			
		7		1			9	
	8	4						1
	5	2		8		7	3	
1						5	2	
	7			2		8		
			4	3			5	
	6				5			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6479 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

P	A	R	E	N	T	■	F	A
A	■	E	■	I	■	■	M	■
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	■	A
■	I	■	R	■	H	■	A	■
A	C	C	E	P	T	A	B	L
■	■	■	N	■	W	■	O	■
P	A	D	R	E	■	■	M	A
A	■	■	■	A	■	I	■	A
A	N	D	O	R	R	A	N	■
T	■	N	■	■	■	■	A	■
P	O	P	S	■	P	A	T	R
M	■	T	■	A	■	E	■	O
B	I	Z	A	R	R	E	■	A
M	■	G	■	S	■	■	■	E
E	L	E	V	E	N	■	S	T

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	E	S	I	G	N	■	F	A
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	7	2	3	9	1	6	5
2	5	9	1	8	6	3	7	4
3	1	6	5	7	4	8	2	9
4	3	1	6	5	8	7	9	2
7	9	2	4	1	3	6	5	8
6	8	5	7	9	2	4	3	1
9	2	3	8	4	7	5	1	6
5	6	4	3	2	1	9	8	7
1	7	8	9	6	5	2	4	3

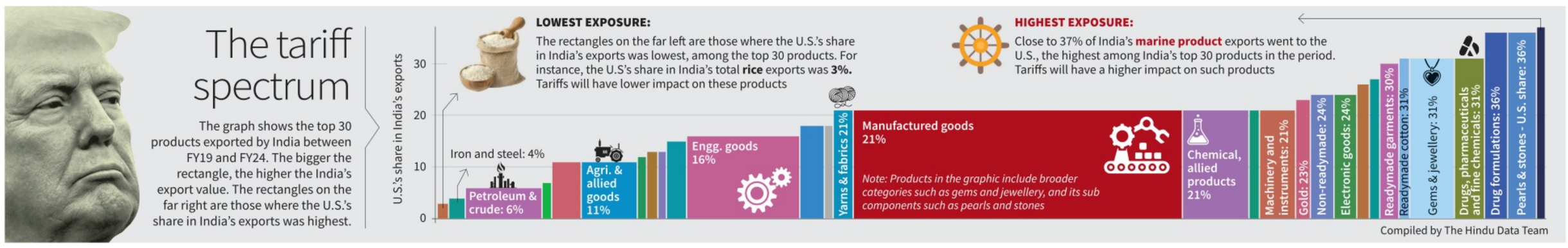
FAITH

Lesson from Ahalya's life

Sri Ramayana is an excellent work by Valmiki that encompasses all aspects of dharma. However, the intricacies of dharma cannot be easily understood by ordinary people. Swami Vedanta Desika states in "Munivahana Bhogam" that we are human by birth, but our minds vacillate like monkeys. Only with the help of Acharyas can they be understood. Navalpakkam Sri Vasudevachariar stated in a discourse that Ahalya, wife of sage Gautama, was assisting her husband in his penance and austere life. It is said that all the celestials would come and pay their obeisance to Gautama. But Indra, the chief of the celestials, induced by an unholy desire, went to the hermitage disguised as Gautama when the sage was away to perform his daily ablutions. On return, the sage, smelling a rat, censured Indra. He also cursed his wife Ahalya to be a stone and prescribed a long penance to her. The sage said she would be freed when Rama sets his foot. She had undertaken penance for several years, waiting for Rama to come.

Swami Vedanta Desika says in "Paduka Sahasram" that the dust particles of the divine feet of Rama transformed Ahalya to her original form. Bharata was censured by all, presuming he was the reason for sending Rama to the forest. But the sandals (Paduka) of Rama removed the aspersions cast upon him. The same Acharya says in "Abhaya Pradhana Sara" that he would pray and worship only that deity who would release him from the clutches of sinful deeds and grant moksha, even for a one-time surrender.

The lesson from Ahalya's life is that, however deadly one's sin may be, one may hope to be freed from its consequences by expressing genuine repentance.



Compiled by The Hindu Data Team

Life support: The exemption underscores the critical role of medicines in public health, says IPA. GETTY IMAGES

Pharma industry spared from tariff jab; shares gain

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The pharmaceutical industry remained unscathed getting an exemption from the reciprocal tariff U.S. President Donald Trump announced on a wide range of imports from countries, big, small and powerful across the globe, as a retaliatory measure against the levy imposed by them on U.S. goods.

Pharmaceuticals have been exempted from tariffs, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) Secretary General Sudarshan Jain said on Thursday, seeking to highlight how the decision underscores the critical role of cost-effective, life-saving generic medicines in public health, economic stability and national security.

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India, a body under the Commerce Ministry, welcoming the exemption said the decision secures uninterrupted flow of essential and affordable medicines to Americans reinforcing India's unwavering commitment to quality and reliable supply.

Senior Director at Crisil Ratings Anuj Sethi said the U.S. Administration had exempted pharmaceuticals from reciprocal tariffs given the focus on enhancing availability of affordable medical care of the U.S. citizens. This move by the U.S. will help sustain exports.

Shares of all the 20 companies – from Aurobindo Pharma, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Sun Pharma, Lupin, Cipla, Natco Pharma to Gland Pharma – forming part of the Nifty Pharma, gained as the sectoral index of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) ended the day 2.25% higher.

Engineering goods to take a hit, exporters of textiles see ray of hope

Exporters across India have called for the early conclusion of a bilateral free trade agreement with the United States after President Donald Trump slapped 26% reciprocal tariffs

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Engineering a decline: In 2024-2025, from April to February, India exported $17.27 billion engineering goods or 8.3% more than the previous year. This is estimated to drop by $4 billion in FY26. REUTERS

Exporters across the country have called for the early conclusion of a bilateral free trade agreement (BTA) with the U.S. following President Donald Trump slapping 26% reciprocal tariff on Indian imports.

"Assessing the impact of the recently imposed reciprocal tariffs by the U.S. on Indian exports reveals a nuanced scenario. While the tariffs do present challenges, India's position remains comparatively favorable," said Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO of the Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation.

"For instance, Vietnam faces a 46% tariff, China 34%, and Indonesia 32%, placing India in a relatively better position than key competitors. Despite the tariffs, certain sectors in India, including apparel, gems and jewellery, leather, electronics, chemicals, plastics and furniture, may experience a diversion of exports, potentially offsetting some adverse effects. The timely conclusion of a BTA between India and the U.S. is crucial to mitigate tariffs and provide relief to Indian exporters," he said.

Exports of marine products, carpets, advanced machinery, and medical equipment are likely to be impacted, he added.

However, engineering exporters are not bullish.

Executive director of EEPC India Adhip Mitra said the U.S. was the top destination for engineering exports. In 2024-2025 from April to February, India exported $17.27 billion engineering goods or 8.3% more than previous year.

"Our preliminary estimate is engineering goods exports may drop by $4 billion to $5 billion annually in the first year. Going forward, Indian exporters should diversify to new markets to minimise the impact of the U.S. tariff. India should accelerate its efforts for trade agreements with the EU, U.K., Canada and the GCC. Strategic intervention will give relief to exporters," he said.

However, the textile and apparel sector is sanguine despite high vulnerability.

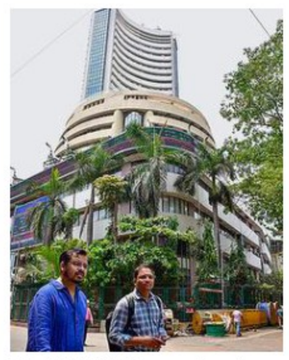
"At present, the tariff announced by the U.S. presents an opportunity for India compared with its competitors in terms of better market access," said Rakesh Mehra, chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

India exported textile and apparel products worth $10.5 billion to the U.S. in 2024 or about 28.5% of India's total textile and apparel exports.

The tariff is relatively lower than levies for other competitors. While strategic engagement with the U.S. remains critical, exporters should also focus on expanding into new destinations, he added.

Indices weather Trump tariffs, rupee is stronger

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI


The S&P BSE Sensex closed with a loss of 322 points, or 0.42%, at 76,295. PTI

Indian stock indices exhibited tepid response to U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff action on Thursday as investors factored in the impact of higher tariffs on other Asian countries such as China, Vietnam and Thailand.

With the realisation the tariffs were relatively lower on India, frontline indices recovered during the day and closed with a loss of 0.4% compared with 0.3% slide in China, 1.5% in Hong Kong, 1% in Thailand and 6.7% in Vietnam.

"Nifty opened sharply lower by 182 points, reacting to President Trump's unexpectedly stringent tariffs," said Nandish Shah, deputy vice-president, HDFC Securities. "However, the index demonstrated remarkable resilience, quickly recouping most of its losses in the first half of the trading session.

"Post 11 a.m., the Nifty traded within a narrow range, ultimately closing the weekly expiry down 82 points (0.35%) at 23,250. NSE cash market volumes rose 13% compared with the previous day," he said.

The S&P BSE Sensex closed with a loss of 322 points, or 0.42%, at 76,295.

Sectorally, pharma, healthcare, and PSU banks were the top performers, while IT, auto, and metals lost significantly.

"Markets had priced in most of the effects of Trump tariff. Investors have received much needed clarity regarding the Trump tariff. This was not there before which led to the volatility," said Shrikant Chouhan, head of research at Kotak Securities.

Rupee recoups

The Indian rupee initially weakened, falling 26 paise to 85.78 against the U.S. dollar amid the tariff news. It subsequently recovered, supported by a weakening dollar index and stable equity markets. The rupee closed with a 22-paise gain at 85.30, its strongest close since December 26, 2024.

"The reason for dollar weakness is after reciprocal tariffs, the probability of recession is higher in U.S. If the recession comes with inflation, that is a bad combination for the U.S. economy. Due to that, the currency depreciated" said Dilip Parmar, research analyst, HDFC Securities.

Growth booster: Barclays expect the monetary policy committee of the RBI to continue with rate cuts. REUTERS

Barclays says Asian economies' growth may dip on tariffs

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Asian economies may not resort to retaliation to the tariffs announced by U.S. President Donald Trump and may opt for negotiation, according to Barclays. It also expects growth forecasts for these countries to take a hit.

Barring China and possibly Indonesia, most Asian economies are expected to resort to negotiation rather than retaliation.

The effect of tariffs is expected to reduce GDP forecasts for Asian economies. "The new tariffs imply significant downside risks to our GDP growth forecasts if they are not eventually reduced, and we believe they are likely to be more net deflationary than inflationary," according to a Barclays research note.

India may have entered an advanced stage in terms of negotiation, the report read. "Even before the April 2 announcement, governments, including India and Thailand have been openly discussing what additional goods could be purchased from the U.S. to mitigate tariff risk," the analysts said.

The mild cut in GDP forecast is likely to nudge RBI to cut rates. "We continue to expect MPC to reduce the repo rate by 25 bps next week, based on the expectation of a moderation in the CPI inflation to 4.2% on an average in FY26," said Aditi Nayar , chief economist, ICRA.

Indian seafood exporters get the 'sinking' feeling

K.A. Martin
KOCHI

Troubled waters: Impact on Indian seafood exports to the U.S. will be significant as India is the largest exporter to the U.S. K.R. DEEPAK

U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of 26% tariff across a spectrum of goods from India will have an immediate impact on Indian seafood exports, which totalled $7.38 billion during 2023-24.

Impact on Indian seafood exports to the U.S. will be significant considering that India is the largest exporter of seafood to the U.S., having a 35% share in the U.S. market, said K.N. Raghavan, secretary general of the Seafood Exporters Association of India.

The impact is accentuated by the fact that Ecuador, India's closest rival in the U.S. market, has been slapped with a 10% tariff.

The difference of 17% tariff is a cause for worry for the Indian seafood business, he pointed out.

India exported a total of 17.81 lakh tonnes of seafood during 2023-24, earning ₹60,523 crore.

The bulk of seafood exports is frozen shrimp and the biggest importer is the U.S., accounting for 2.97 lakh tonnes worth about $488 million.

Electronics industry gets tariff breather

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The U.S.'s additional 26% reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports have spared semiconductors

Electronics manufacturing firms and their industry associations expressed relief that the U.S.'s additional 26% reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports have spared semiconductors.

"What's interesting is that we're poised to gain an edge over Vietnam and China in the electronics sector and will most likely outperform these countries," Ajai Chowdhry, chairman of the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) said.

Mr. Chowdhry was referring to the higher tariffs imposed on other Asian countries, a result of their higher trade deficits with the U.S. That advantage remains subject to Vietnam not being able to strike a trade deal with the U.S., and India simultaneously succeeding at striking a bilateral trade agreement.

The India Cellular and Electronics Association, however, warned of the notably lower tariff rates on countries such as Brazil, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE and the Philippines, compared with India.

Cost of repairs carried out on spares sent by Indian airlines to the U.S. could rise. FILE PHOTO

Boeing aircraft delays, supply chain issues may worsen

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The impact of the tariff order from U.S. President Donald Trump could worsen supply chain issues for aerospace manufacturer Boeing, resulting in prolonged aircraft delivery delays for airlines such as Air India Group and Akasa.

"While it is early to gauge the precise impact of the U.S. tariff order, a hike in duties could further compound supply chain challenges raising delivery timelines," said senior aviation adviser Sandeep Bahl.

The cost of repairs carried out on spares that are sent by Indian airlines to the U.S. could also increase as their might be a duty on their re-import, Mr. Bahl warned.

Currently, these have been negotiated at zero tariff for re-importing by the two countries.

'Jewellery exports to U.S. may halve, jobs at stake'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India's gem and jewellery exports to the U.S. could halve from what they are today warned industry players citing historical data to underscore this risk. They urged India to enter into a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the U.S. that has imposed steep reciprocal tariffs.

In 2007 when the U.S. withdrew India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits, gold jewellery exports plummeted 50% from $2.21 billion to $1.01 billion within a year, recovering only after 15 years, according to a note reviewed by *The Hindu*.

In a note on the likely impact, Adil Kotwal, president, SEEPZ Gems & Jewellery Manufacturers' Association (SGJMA) stated, "The U.S.'s proposed reciprocal tariff policy poses a serious threat to SEEPZ's jewellery export sector, which accounts for 85% of India's diamond-studded jewellery exports to the U.S. This industry is highly labour-intensive, directly employing 50,000 workers and supporting over one lakh more. A sudden tariff hike could severely impact exports, putting thousands of livelihoods at risk," he cautioned.

A diverse range is exported. PTI

Need fair duty

"We urge the Indian government to negotiate for a fair duty structure or consider lowering India's import duty on U.S. jewellery to a more reciprocal level."

India's exports to the U.S. include a diverse range of products. These include cut and polished diamonds ($5.6 billion), studded gold jewellery ($2.55 billion), plain gold jewellery ($267 million), lab-grown diamonds ($831 million), silver jewellery ($320 million).

However, gold jewellery and diamonds –key drivers of India's exports– stand to suffer the most.

BANGKOK

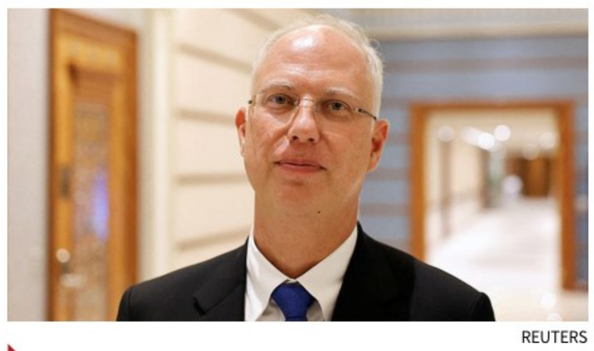
Head of Myanmar's military govt. visits Thailand in rare overseas trip

AFP

The head of Myanmar's military government, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, visited Thailand on Thursday for the BIMSTEC summit amid criticism. His rare trip follows a deadly earthquake in Myanmar, killing over 3,000. The junta declared a ceasefire for aid efforts, but civil war hampers relief operations. AP

WASHINGTON

Top Russian official in Washington for talks on improving relations

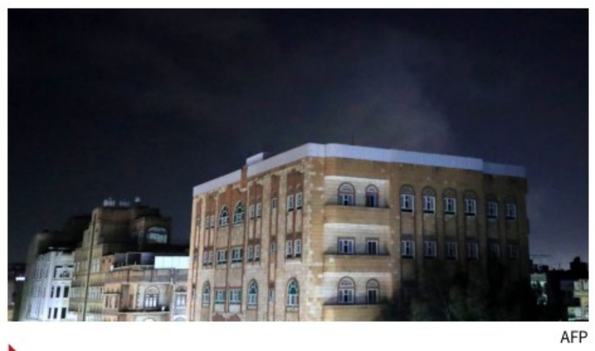


REUTERS

Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund, visited Washington for talks with President Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff. This marks the highest-level Russian visit since 2022. Discussions aim to improve ties and address Ukraine ceasefire negotiations, with sanctions temporarily eased for Mr. Dmitriev's travel. AFP

SANAA

Yemen's Houthis say one dead as over 30 strikes hit rebel-held areas

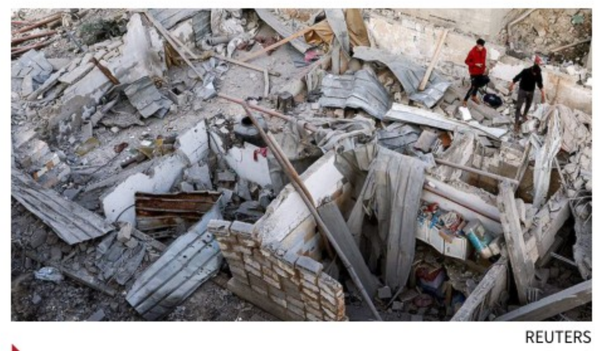


AFP

Yemen's Houthis accused the U.S. of killing a communications tower guard in Ibb during air strikes targeting rebel-held areas on Thursday. Over 30 strikes were reported, with claims of downed U.S. drones and retaliatory attacks on American warships amid escalating tensions in the Red Sea. AFP

DEIR AL BALAH

Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip leave more than 50 Palestinians dead



REUTERS

Overnight strikes by Israel killed at least 55 people in Gaza, targeting areas like Khan Younis and Gaza City, officials said on Thursday. The attacks came as the Israeli military said an independent body would investigate a March 23 operation in which its forces opened fire on ambulances. Rights groups say such probes rarely punish soldiers. AP

EU 'prepared to respond' to tariffs, but open for talks

There seems to be no order in the disorder, no clear path through the complexity and chaos that is being created as all U.S. trading partners are hit, says European Commission's von der Leyen

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Conflict resolution: Ursula von der Leyen said the EU was watching for indirect impacts on Trump's announcement. AFP

Hours after U.S. President Donald Trump announced tariffs on America's trade partners, including 20% on EU goods, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc was "prepared to respond", even as she appeared to keep the door open for negotiations.

"I deeply regret this choice," she said, referring to Mr. Trump's tariffs, as she delivered a video broadcast on Thursday morning. The U.S. President had announced a baseline tariff of 10% on all goods coming into the U.S., with some countries and entities facing higher tariffs, roughly at half the average tariff rate charged by them for U.S. goods, as per Mr. Trump. The U.S. would charge China 34%, India 27% and Vietnam 46%. Non-EU European countries were taxed at different rates: the U.K. at 10% and Switzerland at 31%.

Tariffs would hurt people across the world, Ms. von der Leyen said, adding that there was no clear path through the uncertainty.

"And what is more, there seems to be no order in the disorder. No clear path through the complexity and chaos that is being created as all U.S. trading partners are hit," she said.

The EU had already announced last month that it was preparing to respond to Mr. Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminium. Ms. von der Leyen confirmed that process was under way.

"And we are now preparing for further countermeasures, to protect our interests and our businesses if negotiations fail," Ms. von der Leyen added. The bloc's executive head also said the EU was watching for indirect impacts on Mr. Trump's announcement, i.e., in terms of the dumping of cheap goods by third countries, whose exports were originally intended for the U.S.

Ms. von der Leyen appeared to offer an off-ramp though saying there are "others" taking advantage of the trading system and that she was ready to assist in making the international trading system "fit for the realities" of a global economy.

"But I also want to be clear: Reaching for tariffs as your first and last tool will not fix it," she added.

Earlier this week, Ms. von der Leyen said the EU would be looking at removing bureaucratic and regulatory challenges to trade within its borders as part of the strategy to counter Mr. Trump's moves. On Thursday, she told Europeans who were feeling let down by their "oldest ally" that with a strength of 450 million, the European Single Market was their "safe harbour" in difficult times.

Lesotho is among those hardest hit by Trump tariffs

Reuters

The tiny southern African kingdom of Lesotho has been hit with a 50% reciprocal trade tariff by U.S. President Donald Trump, the highest levy of any single state on his long list of target economies. Lesotho, which Mr. Trump had ridiculed in March as a country "nobody has ever heard of", is a poor and landlocked country with a gross domestic product of just over $2 billion.

It has a large trade surplus with the United States, mostly made up of diamonds and textiles, including Levi's jeans. Its exports to the U.S., which in 2024 totalled $237 million, account for more than 10% of GDP, Oxford Economics said.

China 'firmly opposes' U.S. tariffs, pledges retaliation

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China on Thursday said it "firmly opposes" sweeping new U.S. tariffs on its exports, vowing "countermeasures" to protect its rights and interests.

U.S. President Donald Trump has ignited a potentially ruinous global trade war after imposing 10% levies on imports from around the world and harsh extra duties on key trading partners.

Mr. Trump unveiled particularly stinging tariffs of 34% on China, one of its largest trading partners.

The Commerce Ministry in Beijing said in a statement that those tariffs "do not comply with international trade rules and seriously harm the legitimate rights and interests of the relevant parties". It urged Washington to "immediately cancel" them, warning they "endanger global economic development", hurting U.S. interests and international supply chains.

Trump has imposed 34% tariffs on Chinese imports. AFP

It also accused the United States of a "typical unilateral bullying practice".

The tariffs come on top of a 20% rate imposed last month.

At a weekly briefing on Thursday, the Commerce Ministry slammed Washington's "protectionism and bullying". But it also said that the two sides were "maintaining communication" over sources of contention in trade and economic issues.

Beijing's Foreign Ministry also warned the United States that protectionism has no "exit ramp" and noted the broad international opposition to the measures. China previously responded to U.S. tariffs with levies of up to 15% on a range of U.S. agricultural goods including soybeans, pork and chicken.

U.S. duties have threatened to harm China's fragile economic recovery as it struggles with a long-running debt crisis in the property sector and persistently low consumption.

Hungary welcomes Netanyahu, declares it is quitting ICC

Associated Press
BUDAPEST

Viktor Orbán

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Hungary's capital early Thursday to red carpet treatment despite a warrant for his arrest issued by the world's top war crimes court.

Hungary's government, led by its populist Prime Minister and Netanyahu ally, Viktor Orbán, used the occasion of the Israeli leader's visit to announce it will begin the procedure of withdrawing from the international tribunal that issued the warrant, the International Criminal Court.

The two leaders were set to hold talks later on Thursday, and Mr. Netanyahu was also to meet Hungarian President Tamás Sulyok in the Presidential Palace.

South Africa's unity govt. fractures over Budget increases

Agence France-Presse
JOHANNESBURG

The second-largest party in South Africa's testy unity government said on Thursday it was reconsidering its future in the alliance after Parliament passed a Budget that it had rejected.

The centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) filed a legal appeal to stop a one-percent VAT hike over the next two financial years that was outlined in the Budget passed on Wednesday by just eight votes.

The DA's senior leaders will also meet on Thursday to consider its place in the 10-party alliance, federal council chairperson Helen Zille told reporters.

"We know that being in a coalition requires compromise," she said. "You can't get it all. But the ANC also can't get it all, and they are refusing, point blank, to share power."

The DA joined the ANC in June 2024.

Key opposition parties, the Economic Freedom Fighters and MK, also rejected the Budget on Wednesday, saying that the government needs to find other ways to bolster revenue rather than by taxing ordinary South Africans.

Rubio says U.S. committed to NATO, but wants allies to double spending target

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told nervous NATO members on Thursday that Washington remained committed to the alliance, but said they must agree to massively ramp up their spending targets for defence.

President Donald Trump has rattled Europe by casting doubt on his willingness to defend all allies, and by reaching out to Russia over the war in Ukraine – before further raising tensions with his latest trade tariffs.

"Some of this hysteria that I see in the global media and some domestic media in the United States about NATO is unwarranted," Mr. Rubio said on his first visit to meet his NATO counterparts in Brussels.

"President Trump's made clear he supports NATO. We're going to remain in NATO," he said.

Marco Rubio

Ahead of NATO's June summit in The Hague, Mr. Trump has demanded that the alliance more than double its current spending target to 5% of GDP – more than any, including Washington, spend now.

"We do want to leave here with an understanding that we are on a realistic pathway to every single one of the members committing and fulfilling a promise to reach up to 5% spending, and that includes the U.S.," Mr. Rubio said.

"No one expects you're gonna be able to do this in one year or two. But the pathway has to be real."

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A BG-BGE

FULL SUPPORT

We wanted to back our batters, not blame each other: Varun

K.R. DEEPAK

The last two games were tough. But last year, we had such losses and wanted to back our batters, not blame each other. Take your time, get acclimatised to the pitch and score 70-80 runs in the last five overs. Even if you have a good spell today, you have to start from scratch in the next game — KKR bowler Varun Chakaravarthy

ON TARGET

'Siraj bowled an outstanding spell and threatened the stumps a lot'

K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

RCB head coach Andy Flower said losing four wickets in the first seven overs made it tough for his side. "We played very aggressively in the PowerPlay and lost some wickets... that was obviously a big swing in the game. Siraj bowled an outstanding spell with the new ball and he threatened the stumps a lot," said Flower.

STILL GOING STRONG

Bhuvneshwar is joint-highest wicket-taker among pacers in IPL

SPORTZPICS/IPL

Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the joint-highest wicket-taker among pacers in IPL following his spell of one for 23 for Royal Challengers against Titans on Wednesday. The 35-year-old levelled Dwayne Bravo's tally of 183. He is tied for third in the all-time wicket-takers list behind Yuzvendra Chahal (206) and Piyush Chawla (192).

A SETBACK

Titans pacer Rabada flies home due to personal reasons

PTI

South African pacer Kagiso Rabada has returned home from the ongoing IPL 2025 due to personal reasons, his franchise Gujarat Titans announced on Thursday. Titans, though, have not specified the duration of Rabada's absence. The 29-year-old was not picked for Titans' match against Royal Challengers on Wednesday.

Knight Riders carry out a demolition job at the Eden

Venkatesh, Raghuvanshi produce superb fifties and take the home side to the 200-run mark for the first time this season; Vaibhav, Varun claim three apiece as the Sunrisers fold for 120 in reply and slump to a third consecutive defeat

Key moments: Venkatesh found his touch at the right time while Vaibhav sent back the dangerous Klaasen. K.R. DEEPAK

IPL-18

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Following an ignominious defeat to Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders bounced back to outplay Sunrisers Hyderabad by 80 runs and record its second win in IPL 2025 at the Eden Gardens here on Thursday.

KKR rode on Venkatesh Iyer and Angkrish Raghuvanshi's brilliant half-centuries to score 200 for six after being put in. The defending champion then relied on Vaibhav Arora and Varun Chakaravarthy's three-wicket hauls to bundle out a strong SRH for 120 for a morale-boosting victory.

SRH sent back the KKR openers early with skipper Pat Cummins and Mohammed Shami accounting for Quinton de Kock and Sunil Narine respectively. Nevertheless, home captain Ajinkya Rahane (38, 27b, 1x4, 4x6) maintained his composure. He smashed three sixes on the on-side while helping KKR gather 53 in the PowerPlay.

Raghuvanshi (50, 32b, 5x4, 2x6) applied himself in a much-needed 51-ball 81-run partnership with Rahane. The younger Mumbaikar not only worked the ball around but also showcased some impressive shots, predominantly on the off-side.

KKR suffered a double blow as Rahane was caught behind while attempting a reverse sweep off leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari and Raghuvanshi was spectacularly caught by Harshal Patel at deep backward point off Kamindu Mendis.

SRH gained control briefly before the two left-handers Venkatesh and Rinku Singh's late charge powered KKR to touch 200 for the first time in the season.

Venkatesh (60, 29b, 7x4, 3x6) backed his strengths en route his first fifty of the season while Rinku (32 n.o., 17b, 4x4, 1x6) played some entertaining shots as the two forged a 41-ball 91-run stand. Venkatesh plundered 21, including three fours and a six, off the penultimate over bowled by Cummins.

The KKR pacers reduced the visitor to nine for three in reply. Vaibhav struck in consecutive overs to remove dangerman Travis Head and Ishan Kishan, superbly caught by Rahane at cover, while Harshit Rana claimed Abhishek Sharma. SRH lost wickets regularly to suffer its third straight loss.

Next assignment

SRH: April 6 vs GT
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

KKR: April 8 vs LSG
Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Quinton de Kock c Zeeshan b Cummins 1 *(6b)*, Sunil Narine c Klaasen b Shami 7 *(7b, 1x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Klaasen b Zeeshan 38 *(27b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Harshal b Kamindu 50 *(32b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Aniket b Harshal 60 *(29b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 32 *(17b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Andre Russell run out 1 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-8, w-3): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 200

FALL OF WICKETS

1-14 (de Kock, 1.5 overs), 2-16 (Narine, 2.3), 3-97 (Rahane, 10.6), 4-106 (Raghuvanshi, 12.4), 5-197 (Venkatesh, 19.3), 6-200 (Russell, 19.6).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-29-1, Cummins 4-0-44-1, Simarjeet 4-0-47-0, Zeeshan 3-0-25-1, Harshal 4-0-43-1, Kamindu 1-0-4-1.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Travis Head **(Impact Player for Zeeshan)** c Harshit b Vaibhav 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Abhishek Sharma c Venkatesh b Harshit 2 *(6b)*, Ishan Kishan c Rahane b Vaibhav 2 *(5b)*, Nitish Kumar c Narine b Russell 19 *(15b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Kamindu Mendis c sub (Anukul) b Narine 27 *(20b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Moeen b Vaibhav 33 *(21b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Aniket Verma c Venkatesh b Varun 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Pat Cummins c Harshit b Varun 14 *(15b, 2x4)*, Harshal Patel c & b Russell 3 *(5b)*, Simarjeet Singh b Varun 0 *(1b)*, Mohammed Shami (not out) 2 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-5): 8; Total (in 16.4 overs): 120.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Head, 0.2), 2-9 (Abhishek, 1.6), 3-9 (Kishan, 2.1), 4-44 (Nitish, 6.4), 5-66 (Kamindu, 9.3), 6-75 (Aniket, 10.4), 7-112 (Klaasen, 14.4), 8-114 (Cummins, 15.1), 9-114 (Simarjeet, 15.2).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Vaibhav **(Impact Player for Raghuvanshi)** 4-1-29-3, Harshit 3-0-15-1, Varun 4-0-22-3, Russell 1.4-0-21-2, Narine 4-0-30-1.

Toss: SRH.

PoM: Vaibhav.

KKR won by 80 runs.

Sai Sudharsan waxes eloquent on Sai Kishore

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

It is not often that Rashid Khan is the bowler with the worst figures and yet his team wins at a canter. But Wednesday was one such occasion when Gujarat Titans, despite Rashid conceding 54 runs from four overs, thrashed Royal Challengers Bengaluru by eight wickets.

Chief among the reasons – apart from Player of the Match Mohammed Siraj's blistering opening spell – was left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore's performance (4-0-22-2).

The Tamil Nadu bowler accounted for Jitesh Sharma, who looked set to stage a remarkable rescue act after an RCB top-order collapse, and then caught and bowled Krunal Pandya for a measly five.

Krunal's wicket was courtesy his own version of the carrom ball, a feat that would have made his statemate R. Ashwin proud. Coming as it did just days after he stared down Krunal's more illustrious brother Hardik, it was a firm indicator of Sai Kishore's confidence.

"I feel it was the most important spell because the wicket was very difficult to bat against fast bowlers, and batters, including me, were trying to maximise what we get out of the spinners," said Sai Sudharsan, his teammate at both Titans and Tamil Nadu. "He was smart enough and used the right speeds and right angles. That's why he had a great game."

Smart bowling: Sai Sudharsan feels that Sai Kishore used the right speeds and angles. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Sai Kishore has been with the Titans since inception, but he has played just 13 matches, including none in 2023. But going by this season's efforts – even in the contest where Punjab Kings scored 243, he returned figures of 4-0-30-3 – he should play a lot more.

"Off the field, the amount of effort he puts, the amount of preparation he does in terms of [gaining] tactical advantages... I feel that is taking him a bit ahead of other bowlers," opined Sai Sudharsan. "He understands the game, the situations and uses his speeds and angles [well]. That's why he is bowling the way he is."

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	2	2	0	4	1.485
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	4	1.320
Royal Challengers	3	2	1	4	1.149
Gujarat Titans	3	2	1	4	0.807
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	4	0.070
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	2	0.309
Lucknow Super Giants	3	1	2	2	-0.150
Chennai Super Kings	3	1	2	2	-0.771
Rajasthan Royals	3	1	2	2	-1.112
Sunrisers Hyderabad	4	1	3	2	-1.612

** Till the KKR-SRH match on April 3*

Focus on misfiring Pant and Rohit as Super Giants cross swords with upbeat Mumbai Indians

Abhishek Saini
LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants will hope its big guns can turn up and pull off a concerted effort against Mumbai Indians at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in their IPL match here on Friday.

The Super Giants' fate has hinged on the efforts of Nicholas Pooran, who has scored 189 runs in three innings at a strike rate of nearly 220.

Rishabh Pant's lack of form has been emblematic of LSG's middle-order woes with the captain contributing just 17 runs in three essays. His task will be cut out against Vignesh Puthur. Pant has a strike rate of 92 against left-arm unorthodox spinners.

David Miller has ended unbeaten in two out of his three outings but his middling strike rate of 134 has not allayed concerns over the side's batting form.

With the ball, Ravi Bishnoi has conceded at 12.54 per over in the three games so far, his worst economy rate through a season. Akash Deep joined the LSG squad on the match eve to bolster an injury-torn pace unit.

MI comes into the match on the high of a home win, but faces the daunting task of snapping a six-game losing streak on the road.

Ryan Rickelton and Suryakumar Yadav starred in MI's chase against Kolkata Knight Riders. But the side will have its batting firing on all cylinders only when Rohit Sharma comes good.

Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar claimed three wickets in the PowerPlay in their last game, and the new-ball duo will again be tempted to attack early given LSG's batting fragility.

Today's match

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS vs. MUMBAI INDIANS

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 6

LSG 5 | MI 1

PREVIOUS MEETING

LSG won by **18 runs**, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Runs 'n ruins: Star batters Pant and Rohit have struggled to get going. SANDEEP SAXENA

Akash Deep ready to mark his run-up

Abhishek Saini
LUCKNOW

> IPL is a long tournament. In the three games we have played, we've taken a lot of positives
> **AKASH DEEP**

Mumbai Indians' batting coach Kieron Pollard on Thursday backed Rohit Sharma to hit his stride in IPL 2025.

The former MI captain has accumulated just 21 runs in three innings.

MI started its campaign with two defeats before securing a victory in its third game against Kolkata Knight Riders.

On his side being assigned the tag of slow starter, Pollard said: "It is not something that we want to happen. We continue to try to prepare to win from the first game. A big auction took place and there are teams that get the combinations right quicker than some."

Pacer Akash Deep, who completed his recovery from a back injury, joined the Super Giants squad on Thursday. The 28-year-old will be a welcome addition to an injury-torn pace attack. He said his side's best was yet to come.

"The IPL is a long tournament. In the three games we have played, we've taken lots of positives. For instance, the way we have bowled despite having four bowlers injured. I think our best is yet to come," he said.

INBRIEF

Tan holds defending champion Ju in opening game

GM Tan Zhongyi held four-time defending champion GM Ju Wenjun in an all-Chinese battle in the opening game of FIDE Women's World Chess 2025 in Shanghai on Thursday. Tan earned the right to challenge her compatriot by winning the Women's Candidates in April 2024. The current edition follows a 12-game format and the first to 6.5 points will win the title.

Manish, Abhinash, Hitesh in World Boxing Cup semifinals

Manish Rathore (55kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) and Hitesh (70kg) recorded wins to enter the semifinals of the World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025 in Foz do Iguacu. Manish defeated Australia's Paris Olympian Yusuf Chothia 3-0, Abhinash dispatched Germany's Denis Bril 5-0 and Hitesh beat Italy's Gabriele Guidi Rontani 5-0. Manish will face Nursultan Altynbek of Kazakhstan, Hitesh will take on Makan Traore and Abhinash will meet Gianluigi Malanga of Italy in the semis.

Japan blanks India in Asia-Oceania u-14 girls' tennis

Fifth seed Japan cruised to a 3-0 victory over India in a Group-B league match of Asia-Oceania World Junior Tennis under-14 girls' championship in Kuching, Malaysia, on Thursday. It was the second loss in as many matches for India after the one to fourth seed Korea. With two teams qualifying for the knockout stage from each of the four groups, India will play for pride in its last league match against the host.

The results (league): Japan bt India 3-0 (Rei Haraguchi bt Srishti Kiran 6-2, 6-4; Shina Okuyama bt Jensi Kanabar 6-1, 6-0; Rei & Shina bt Srishti & Aaradhya Meena 6-1, 6-2).

Barca edges Atletico to set up Copa Clasico final

Barcelona won 1-0 at Atletico Madrid to reach its first Copa del Rey final in four seasons on Wednesday, setting up a "clasico" against Real Madrid. Ferran Torres scored a first-half winner for the Catalan club, which advanced 5-4 on aggregate after a 4-4 draw in the first leg in Barcelona in February. It was yet another disappointing home elimination for Atletico after it lost on penalties to Madrid in the round of 16 of the Champions League last month.

The result (semifinal, second leg): Atletico Madrid 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Torres 27) (*Barcelona progresses 5-4 on aggregate*).

ROUND-UP

Karthik shines in Mallasajjan BC's win

Karthik scored 32 points as Mallasajjan BC Dharwad defeated Vijayanagar BC Mysore 78-70 in the final phase of the Karnataka Rural Basketball League in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The results: Mallasajjan Dharwad 78 (Karthik 32, Sainath 13) bt Vijayanagar Mysore 70 (Chaitanya 20, Vishwas 11); Pinakini Gauribidnur 83 (Abdul 22, Likith 20) bt Nationals Mysore 66 (Ronak 33, Suman 15); Mangalore BC 62 (Prastik 30) bt YFBC Kolar 48 (Roopesh 21); VBC Mandya 75 (Amartya 19) bt YCBC Bellary 58 (Mahesh 21, Rooman 18); Mallasajjan 63 (Manjunath 22, Samarth 12) bt Inspired Dharwad 44 (Prashanth 21); Kuvempu Kalburgi 65 (Sirajuddin 29, Suresh 14) bt Pinakini 59 (Vidya 21, Ravichandra 14); VBC Mandya 83 (Amartya 22, Shashank Gowda 19) bt Nationals Mysore 46 (Ronak 24); Vijayanagar 70 (Bhuvan 19, Vikas 14) bt YFBC Kolar 61 (Rajesh 23, Bhuvan 15).

Bangalore City FC posts win

Bangalore City FC beat Young Challengers FC 2-0 in the BDFA A-division league football here on Thursday.

The results: A-div.: Bangalore City FC 2 (R. Sachin 3, Niranjai Babu 11) bt Young Challengers FC 0; Bangalore Dream United FC 3 (Londup Lepcha 30, 72, Jai Hari Barman 40 drew with RWF FC 3 (S. Rajesh 14, 52, Jayavandan Sigamani 55).

C-div.: UFA Banaswadi FC bt Crescent FC 5-2; Reds United FC bt Bosch FC 8-0.

Archery summer camp

The Karnataka Amateur Archery Association will conduct a summer camp at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru from April 4.

Children 13 and above are eligible to participate. Call 080-22275656.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)
NZ vs Pakistan: 3rd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Hernandez's late strike helps JFC stun Mohun Bagan

The home team heads into the second leg of semifinal with a one-goal advantage; a rusty league shield champion struggles to get going after a long break

ISL

Sports Bureau

Javi Hernandez produced a fantastic goal in added time to help Jamshedpur FC snatch a 2-1 win against the league shield champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the first leg of the ISL semifinal in Jamshedpur on Thursday to secure the crucial advantage.

Jamshedpur opened the lead through Javier Siverio midway through the opening half before Jason Cummings brought Mohun Bagan back into contention with an equaliser before the break.

Just when it appeared that Bagan would be heading home with a draw, Hernandez produced a stunner to ensure that Jamshedpur goes into the second leg (at Kolkata on April 7) with a one-goal lead.

Jamshedpur enjoyed the home advantage as Bagan looked rusty arriving after a prolonged break following its successful league campaign. The home team nearly got a penalty in the sixth minute when a cross inside the Bagan box by Jamshedpur winger Sanan Mohammed hit the hand of defender Asish Rai. But the referee read it differently to deny the host's appeal for a penalty.

Jamshedpur continued with the momentum and found the lead in the 24th minute through Siverio, who nodded home after the towering Stephen Eze reached him unmarked by heading a long throw from Muhammed Uvais.

Mohun Bagan found its rhythm after the half hour and created multiple openings before seeing its efforts rewarded in the 37th minute. Cummings produced a perfectly executed free-kick which found its way in through the top corner to stun the packed galleries into silence. Hernandez's spectacular effort in the end handed over the advantage to Jamshedpur.

Going for it: Nikhil and Liston fight for possession. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The result: Semifinal 2, Leg 1: Jamshedpur 2 (Javier Siverio 24, Javi Hernandez 90+1) bt Mohun Bagan SG 1 (Jason Cummings 37).

Yuvraj and Arjun stay in the lead

GOLF

Sports Bureau
GREATER NOIDA

Yuvraj Sandhu and Arjun Prasad remained in the lead as they stretched their score to 10-under-206 after three rounds in the ₹1.5 crore Adani invitational golf championship at the Jay Greens Golf and Spa Resort on Thursday.

Saptak Talwar, the leader in the opening round, was breathing down the neck of the duo, two shots away, as he also returned a card of three-under 69 for the day.

Aryaman Mohan and Pranav Mardikar were the best performers of the day as they scored five-under 67 to find themselves tied 11th and tied 16th respectively.

"With the wind switching direction today, one had to make the changes in the tee shots and the lines. I managed to do that well," said Arjun.

The 28-year-old Yuvraj, who has 11 titles including two this season, recovered after a slow start with three birdies in the first five holes, after a bogey in the first.

He had three birdies and two bogeys on the back nine.

"It was an up and down day for me, as the putter went cold, especially on the back nine. I expect to play a much better final round," said Yuvraj.

Yuvraj.

The joint leader in the first round, N. Thangaraja of Sri Lanka, who has won a title this season, endured another tough day, with a two-over 74, a repeat of his second round, and placed tied 18th at one-under 215.

The leading scores:
1T. Yuvraj Sandhu (70, 67, 69), Arjun Prasad (68, 69, 69) 206; **3.** Saptak Talwar (67, 72, 69) 208; **4T**. Honey Baisoya (70, 68, 72), Harendra Gupta (72, 66, 72) 210; **6T.** Arjun Sharma (70, 73, 68), dhruv Sheoran (71, 71, 69), Ajeetesh Sandhu (71, 71, 69), Aman Raj (72, 70, 69), Shaurya Bhattacharya (70, 71, 70) 211.

Raman and Pfeiffer to make coaching debuts

UTT

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

German specialist Chris Pfeiffer, who has coached Sharath Kamal, along with S. Raman are the prominent names set to make their coaching debuts in season 6 of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) scheduled in Ahmedabad from May 29 to June 15.

Along with the duo, veteran trainers Pavel Rehorek and Julien Girard and former India No. 1 Jubin Kumar will also be present as coaches in the dug-out of different franchises.

Pfeiffer has been the head coach of Sharath Kamal Academy since 2022 and will mentor Ahmedabad SG Pipers. Raman will join fellow debutant Girard in the Dabang Delhi TTC set-up and comes in with extensive experince of coaching the Indian team during the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Raman.
FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The teams and coaches: Ahmedabad SG Pipers: Somnath Ghosh, Chris Pfeiffer (Ger); **Jaipur Patriots:** Sachin Shetty, Pavel Rehorek (Cze); **PBG Pune Jaguars:** Subhajit Saha, Vesna Ojstersek (Slo); **Goa Challengers:** Parag Agrawal, Elena Timina (Ned); **Dabang Delhi TTC:** S. Raman, Julien Girard (Fra); **U Mumba TT:** Jay Modak, John Murphy (Ire); **Kolkata ThunderBlades:** Jubin Kumar, Tobias Bergman (Swe); **Chennai Lions:** Soumyadeep Roy, Jorg Bitzigeio (Ger).

Liverpool closes in on title, Man City beats Leicester without Haaland

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool moved closer to the Premier League title with a 1-0 win in the Merseyside derby against Everton on Wednesday, while Manchester City beat Leicester 2-0 to bolster its bid to reach the Champions League.

With just eight games left, Liverpool sits 12 points clear of second-placed Arsenal.

Having gone over two months without a goal, Diogo Jota was Liverpool's hero as he ended his drought in the 57th minute, slotting home from Luis Diaz's flick.

It was an especially sweet win for Liverpool after its stormy 2-2 draw at Everton in February, which featured a last-gasp equaliser for David Moyes' team.

At the Etihad Stadium, City coped just fine without Norway striker Erling Haaland, who will be sidelined for up to seven weeks after suffering an ankle injury in Sunday's FA Cup quarterfinal win at Bournemouth.

Pep Guardiola's men took just two minutes to go in front against second-bottom Leicester, which has lost seven successive league games.

Jeremy Doku and Savinho combined to carve open the Leicester defence before Jack Grealish slotted home from close range for his first league goal since December 2023.

City doubled its advantage in the 29th minute as Egypt forward Omar Marmoush lashed home after Leicester goalkeeper Mads Hermansen made a hash of dealing with Ruben Dias's pass.

Newcastle beat Brentford 2-1 to maintain the party mood after the prolonged celebrations of its first major trophy for 56 years. Eddie Howe's side was back in action for the first time since beating Liverpool in the League Cup final.

Aston Villa also remains in the hunt for a Champions League place after winning 3-0 at Brighton.

The clincher: Jota fires in Liverpool's winner through a maze of Everton defenders. GETTY IMAGES

The results: Bournemouth 1 (Evanilson 67) lost to Ipswich 2 (Broadhead 34, Delap 60); Brighton 0 lost to Aston Villa 3 (Rashford 51, Asensio 78, Malen 90+10); Liverpool 1 (Jota 57) bt Everton 0; Manchester City 2 (Grealish 2, Marmoush 29) bt Leicester 0; Newcastle 2 (Isak 45+2, Tonali 74) bt Brentford 1 (Mbeumo 66-pen); Southampton 1 (Onuachu 20) drew with Crystal Palace 1 (Franca 90+2).

Varun and Ravinder finish fifth and sixth

Sports Bureau

Varun Tomar and Ravinder Singh made the air pistol final, but ended up fifth and sixth respectively, in the shooting World Cup in Buenos Aires on Thursday.

Both Varun and Ravinder shot 580 in qualification. While qualification topper Valeriy Rakhimzhan (587) of Kazakhstan placed eighth, Hu Kai of China, who also shot 587, beat Anton Aristarkhov of Azerbaijan by 1.4 point for the gold. Saurabh Chaudhary shot 577 and missed the final by three points.

The results: 10m air pistol:
Men: 1. Hu Kai (Chn) 244.7 (587); 2. Anton Aristarkhov (Ain) 243.3 (586), 3. Jason Solari (Sui) 223.0 (584); 5. VarunTomar 179.9 (580); 6. Ravinder Singh 160.0 (580); 18. Saurabh Chaudhary 577. RPO: Amit Sharma 579; Aakash Bhardwaj 577.

Moving ahead: Crawford put it across Rawat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Clarke and Crawford make the quarterfinals

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Top seed Jay Clarke and second seed Oliver Crawford entered the singles quarterfinals of the S.M. Krishna Memorial Open tennis tournament on Thursday.

While Brit Clarke beat Kazakhstan's Grigory Lomakin 6-4, 6-3, his compatriot Crawford overcame a spirited challenge from India's Sidharth Rawat 6-3, 7-6(4).

Clarke, in fact, will next meet home lad Karan Singh while Crawford will take on Aryan Shah, who is fresh off a title in Ahmedabad last week. Chirag Duhan was the other Indian to progress.

Other results (Indians unless specified): Aryan Shah bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-3, 6-2; Maxim Zhukov (Rus) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-2, 7-6(3); Ryuki Matsuda (Jpn) bt Nick Chappel (USA) 6-2, 3-0 (retd.); Karan Singh bt Nikita Lanin (Rus) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; Chirag Duhan bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

AFI makes it mandatory for athletes to compete in at least one regional event before Fed Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has made it mandatory for athletes to compete in at least one regional competition or country-wide one-day event like the Grand Prix to be eligible for participation in the Federation Cup.

This is being done to ensure that athletes come prepared or show consistency as the Indian team for the Asian Championships to be held in Gumi, South Korea, from May 27-31 will be picked on the basis of performance at the Federation Cup, which will be organised in Kochi from April 21-24.

However, the athletes who are sent abroad by the AFI for training, like double Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, will be exempted from this regulation.

"To participate in this competition (Federation Cup), athletes must achieve the qualification entry standards in events directly organised by the AFI in the year 2025," AFI said in a circular on Tuesday. "It is mandatory for athletes to participate in at least one regional competition (Indian Open Athletics Meet Punjab, Gujarat, Jharkhand, TN) or fourth Indian Open Throws/ fourth Indian Open Jumps/ sixth Indian Open 400m/ Indian Grand Prix in 2025. Please note that only performances achieved in the year 2025 will be considered and no old performances will be accepted."

Niki-Sergio pair loses in the last eight

Sports Bureau

Niki Poonacha and Sergio Gornes were beaten 6-4, 5-7, [10-5] by Benjamin Hassan and Sebastian Ofner in the doubles quarterfinals of the €145,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Menorca, Spain, on Thursday.

Other results: €145,250 Challenger, Menorca, Spain: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Pedro Cachin (Arg) & Izan Corretja (Esp) 6-1, 6-2; Niki & Sergio bt Nicolas varona & carlos Taberner (Esp) 6-3, 6-3.
€91,250 Challenger, Barletta, Italy: Doubles (quarterfinals): Simone Agostini & Gianluca Cadenasso (Ita) bt Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul) 6-2, 4-4 (default).
$40,000 ITF women, Bujumbura, Burundi: Pre-quarterfinals: Tiantsoa Rajaonah (Fra) bt Anjali Rathi 6-1, 6-1; Ekaterina Gorgodze (Geo) bt Riya Bhatia 6-2, 6-2; **First round:** Ekaterina Kazionova bt Priyanshi Bhandari 6-3, 6-0.

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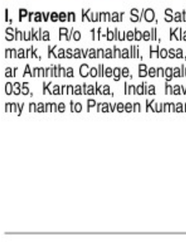

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Praveen Kumar S/O, Satya Narayan Shukla R/o 1f-bluebell, Klassik Landmark, Kasavanahalli, Hosa, Road, Near Amritha College, Bengaluru Pin-560 035, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Praveen Kumar Shukla.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RUTVEE Hemantbhai Shah, r/at No.456, 1st Floor, 7th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560011 have changed my name as Rutvi Shah Bhandari vide affidavit dtd 03.04.2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RANGANATHAN, S/o Tamilgiri, aged about 32 yrs, r/at #444, 5th Cross, Dr.Ambedkar Nagar, Koramangala, 3rd Stage, Viveknagar, Bengaluru 560047 have changed my name to Stephen vide affidavit dtd 02.04.2025 sworn before Notary S.I. Balaguru, Bluru

I, AGARA Yogananda Reddy Vikram Reddy, r/at No.147, Kaikondra Halli, Sarjapur Main Road, Bangalore 560103 have changed my name as Vikram Reddy vide affidavit dtd 27.03.2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

I, Hitherto Known As Rajashekaraiah Gangadhar Bidadhi Alias Gangadhar Bidadhi Rajashekaraiah S/O Rathnamma Bendekatte Residing Sg502 Purva Seasons Kaggadaspura Main Road Cv Raman Nagar Vtc Bangalore North Karnataka-560093, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known Thomas Rajashekar For All Future Purposes

I, Hitherto Known As R Narendranath Alias Narendranath Ravee Alias Narendranath S/O Raveendranath Residing C 13 4th Floor Maruthi Enclave, Sgr Dental College Road, Above Nitrogen Fitness Gym, Munnokolala Marathahalli, Bangalore North, Po: Marathahalli Colony, Dist: Bengaluru, Karnataka-560037, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known Naren For All Future Purposes

I, Tarun Shekar Somashekar Alias Tarun Shekar S S/O B Somashekar Residing At #416, 2nd Cross, Nagappa Reddy Layout, Two Church Road, A Narayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560016, Have Changed My Name To Tarun Shekar For All Future Purpose.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NISHA SAHNI, residing at # 852/A, 1st Stage, 5th Cross, Indiranagar, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru-560 038 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NISHA KAUR** to **NISHA SAHNI**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **NISHA SAHNI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 03-04-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. JAYANNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNAINA ROY, W/o Mr. Ayushmoy Roy, aged about 27 years, R/o C-20, the Villagio, 410, Sy.No.89/1, Seegehalli, H.P. Petrol Bunk, Seegehalli PO, Bangalore-560 067 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUNAINA NAG** to **SUNAINA ROY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUNAINA ROY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 03/04/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **VEENA .K** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DESAI GORAKHNATH SADASHIV dependent of DESAI NETAJI GORAKHNATH resident of SMQ NO. 251/2, 7 th Camp, Air Force Station Jalahalli East, Banglore–560014 have changed by Name from DESAI GORAKHNATH SADASHIV to GORAKHNATH SADASHIV DESAI vide Affidavit dated 25–03–2025 before T.V. Bhadravijaya, Banglore.

I, SRINIVAS Thirunagari, S/O: Venkata Rathaniah Chary Thirunagari, R/O: Flat–B–525, B–Block, Svs Patels Calisto Apartment, Talakavery Layout, Amruthahalli, Bangalore – 560092. Have Changed My Name To Srinivasachary Thirunagari. Affidavit Dated On 01/04/25

I, THOKCHOM Santa Devi, W/O: Anjan Goswami, R/O: D–307, Alembic Urban Forest, Ab Vajpayee Road, Off Channasandra, Whitefield Global School, Kadugodi, Bangalore – 560067. Have Changed My Name To Thokchom Santa, Affidavit Dated On 01/04/25

I, Hitherto Known As Suleman Pasha Md S/O Mohammed Chand Pasha Residing 24 A/2 Ground Floor, Bda Flats 4th Main, Austin Town Layout Neelasandra, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560047, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Mohammad Suleman Pasha For All Future Purposes

I, Hitherto Known As Karthik Rao P S/o Prabhakara Rao P Residing No. A2101, Vaishnavi North 24, 6Th Cross Road, Ranna Road, Near Godrej Woodsman Estate Apartment, Pampa Extension, Hebbal Village, Po: H.A. Farm, Dist: Bengaluru, Karnataka-560024, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Pathumudi Karthik Rao For All Future Purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Hanumanth Reddy Mudnal** S/o Vishwanathreddy Mudnal, R/o. H.No.3-8-32, Near Amruteshwar Temple, Kajgarwadi, Yadgiri, Dist.Yadgiri, Karnataka - 585201 hereby declares that my name in Aadhar Card, Pan Card, Passport & Driving License mentioned as **Hanumanth Reddy Mudnal S/o Vishwanathreddy Mudnal.** But in my Canara Bank, Cantonment Branch, Bangalore my name mentioned as **Hanamanth Reddy Mudnal** & in Tata Motors Limited Shares Certificates my name mentioned as **Hanumanth Reddy.** Hanumanth Reddy Mudnal S/o Vishwanathreddy Mudnal, Hanamanth Reddy Mudnal & Hanumanth Reddy all the names belong to one and the same person. Vide affidavit dt: 27.03.2025 Sworn before Notary by Devindrappa H Yergol, Yadgiri.

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मा. (ऑनलाईन) धुळे हे खालील कामाकरीता ई निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे, धुळे महानगरपालिका, आयुक्त शासन सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग महाराष्ट्र यांचेकडील नोंदणीकृत ठेकेदारांकडूनक्तीच्य / संस्था / **B1** पद्धतीने **Percentage Rate** नुसार निविदा दर मागविण्यात येत आहे.

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CIN-U15511RJ2005SGC020336)
NIB No. 1/2025-26/67 **NOTICE INVITING e-BIDs** Dated : 03-04-2025
e-Bids for **Selection of Franchisee of RSBCL for Setting up and Operations of BIO Wholesale Vends in Rajasthan** are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 pm on 24-04-2025. Other particulars of the bid may be downloaded from the procurement portal https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in of the state and https://excise.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 1.5 Crore.
UBN No.-BCL2526SLOB00001
Raj.Samwad/C/25/209 **Executive Director**

Office the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC
PWD, Bangalore 560001
No.: PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26 Date: 03.04.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tenders for total 16 Road Safety works in Uttara Kannada, Tumakuru, Vijayapura, Hassan, Kalburgi, Shivamogga and Davangere Districts. Further details can be obtained from KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 04.04.2025, 05:30 PM Onwards. **Sd/-**
DIPR/CP/52/AKAR/2025-26 **Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru.**

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Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines). Email : pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
242513 007544	Construction of pumping station at Thathampalayam and providing PVC pipe line upto Moolimangalam seepage drain in TEWLIS area at TNPL Unit - I.	12.04.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1308/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB015GCO33813 website:www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number 96461-17607)
TENDER ENQUIRY No.: 33/AHP-147(N)/MM-II/O&M Dtd. 02.04.2025
SE/MM-II/O&M,GHTP. Lehra Mohabbat-151111 invites e-tender for the Work of Operation & Maintenance and General Cleanliness of PLC based Complete Ash Handling Plant Stage-I and Stage-II units along with operation & routine maintenance of 1 No. 100MT electronic Pitless weighbridge and issuing of Excise Gate Pass cum Invoices to each dry fly ash loading trucks and Work of Decantation of LDO/HSD/HPS/HFO wagons/BTPN wagons/Tankers and general House Keeping and maintenance of Decantation system & storage tank area at GHTP Lehra Mohabbat. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 4.4.25 from 11:00AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be uploaded online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GHTP 27/25 76155/12/4088/2023/43225

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
Re-TENDER NOTICE
Re-Tender No. SE/PPDIU/KKD/01/2025-26
AMRUT-SEWERAGE SYSTEM TO KOZHIKODE CORPORATION - ZONE B PHASE 1-Package 1--AMRUT 2.0 Design, Construction, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of 27 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant with Co-treatment at Sarovaram & Network in Kozhikode Corporation.-General Civil Work
Cost of Tender Form: Rs.19518 (Inclusive of GST), **EMD**: Rs.5,00,000/-, **Date and Time of Opening Tender**: 02/05/2025 at 11.00 am, **Last Date of Receipt of Tender**: 30/04/2025 at 5.00 pm, **Phone No.**8547638046.
Superintending Engineer, PPDIU, Sarovaram, Kozhikode-20
E-mail- seppdkkd@gmail.com

Government Medical College
Rampur Road, Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand - 263139
Advt. No. -377/GMC/Apptt. Dated 03/04/2025
Walk-In-Interview
Walk In interview for vacant "FACULTY" Post(s) on contractual basis will be held on **09th April 2025 (Wednesday) at 10.00 AM** onwards in the **"Office of the Director, Medical Education Directorate, 107 Chandernagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand".** For Further details please visit **our website www.gmchld.org, www.gmchld.com & www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in**
Principal
Government Medical College
Haldwani

Government Medical College, Pithoragarh & Associate Hospital, Linthura, Pithoragarh 262501, Uttarakhand
उत्तराखण्ड सरकार
Email- gmcpithoragarh@gmail.com, Phone No.9837251413 @gmcpithoragarh
No. GMCP/Advt./Recruitment/2025-26/385 Date: 03-04-2025
6th ROLLING MEDICAL FACULTY ADVERTISEMENT
Advt. No.:- GMCP/Advt./Recruitment/2025-26/385
Offline applications are invited for the medical faculty posts on direct recruitment/deputation basis in various departments at Government Medical College, Pithoragarh & Associate Hospital, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. A **"Walk-In-Interview"** will be held on **09th April, 2025 (Wednesday)** from **10:00 AM** onwards in **Directorate of Medical Education, Uttarakhand, 107, Chander Nagar, Dehradun.** For Further information candidates are requested to visit the website of medical education on regular basis - **https://medicaleducation.uk.gov.in/**
Principal
Government Medical College, Pithoragarh

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252623 000001	Supply of Laboratory Equipments for Tissue Machine #5 at TNPL Unit - II.	18.04.2025
242523 004534	For Supply of Material, Fabrication at supplier works, transportation, erection and testing of Stainless Steel (SS 304L) Tanks for TM#5 of TNPL Unit - II.	23.04.2025
242523 004533	For Supply of Material, Fabrication of Equipment at supplier works, transportation, erection and testing of Stainless Steel White Water Flume, Cyclone, Channel & Silo for TM#5 of TNPL Unit II.	23.04.2025
Email	252623000001 - pmd6@tnpl.co.in 242523004534 ; 4533 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1307/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION &GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
M.I. & GWDD DIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008
No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE /2025-26/1738 Date:02-04-2025
TIME EXTENSION SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)
Tender Submission dates are extended for the work due Technical reason under Short Term tender invited by Executive Engineer, M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi. Vide Tender Notice No.EE/MI&GWDD/BGM/TND/AE/2024-25/1654, Date:20-03-2025
1.Tender Quarries up to 15-04-2025, 2.Tender Receipt on or before 16-04-2025 upto 16.00 hrs. 3.Technical Bid will be opened on 17-04-2025 (If possible)
All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-15/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Uttarakhand
Department of Technical Education
No. 460/XLI-A/2025-41/2008, Dehradun, Dated 01 April, 2025
Advertisement No. 461/XLI-A/2025-41/2008 Date: 01.04.2025
NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF VEER MADHO SINGH BHANDARI UTTARAKHAND TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND
The search committee for the appointment of Vice-Chancellor for Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun invites applications from distinguished Academicians from the field of Engineering & Technology with highest level of competence, integrity, moral and institutional commitment. The applicant should be a reputed person in the field of technical education, who should possess Bachelor, Master and Ph.D degree in that Engineering discipline, which is a subject of the University. He should have ten years of experience as Professor and should have administrative experience of five years and any other such Professional achievements or experience that committee deems important.
The appointment shall be for a period of three years. The maximum age should be 62 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications of this advertisement. The post carries a consolidated pay of ₹2,10,000/- with the existing special allowance of ₹11,250/- per month as per Uttarakhand Govt. Order No. 979/XLI-1/19-127/18 dated 11-07-2019 and Office memo No. 1576/XLI-1/19-127/18 dated 25-10-2019. The terms and conditions of the services will be those as set forth in the Act and Statutes of the University.
The advertisement and the format of application are available on the websites **www.uktech.ac.in. The application in the prescribed proforma should reach/extended upto dated on 15.04.2025, 05.00 P.M.** by registered/speed post or email of the soft copy in pdf format to:
Secretary,
Technical Education,
Govt. of Uttarakhand
4-B Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001
Email: secy-tedu-ua@nic.in
Applications if received after due date shall not be entertained.
"Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University" should be super-scribed on the envelope.
Dr. Ranjit Kumar Sinha
Secretary

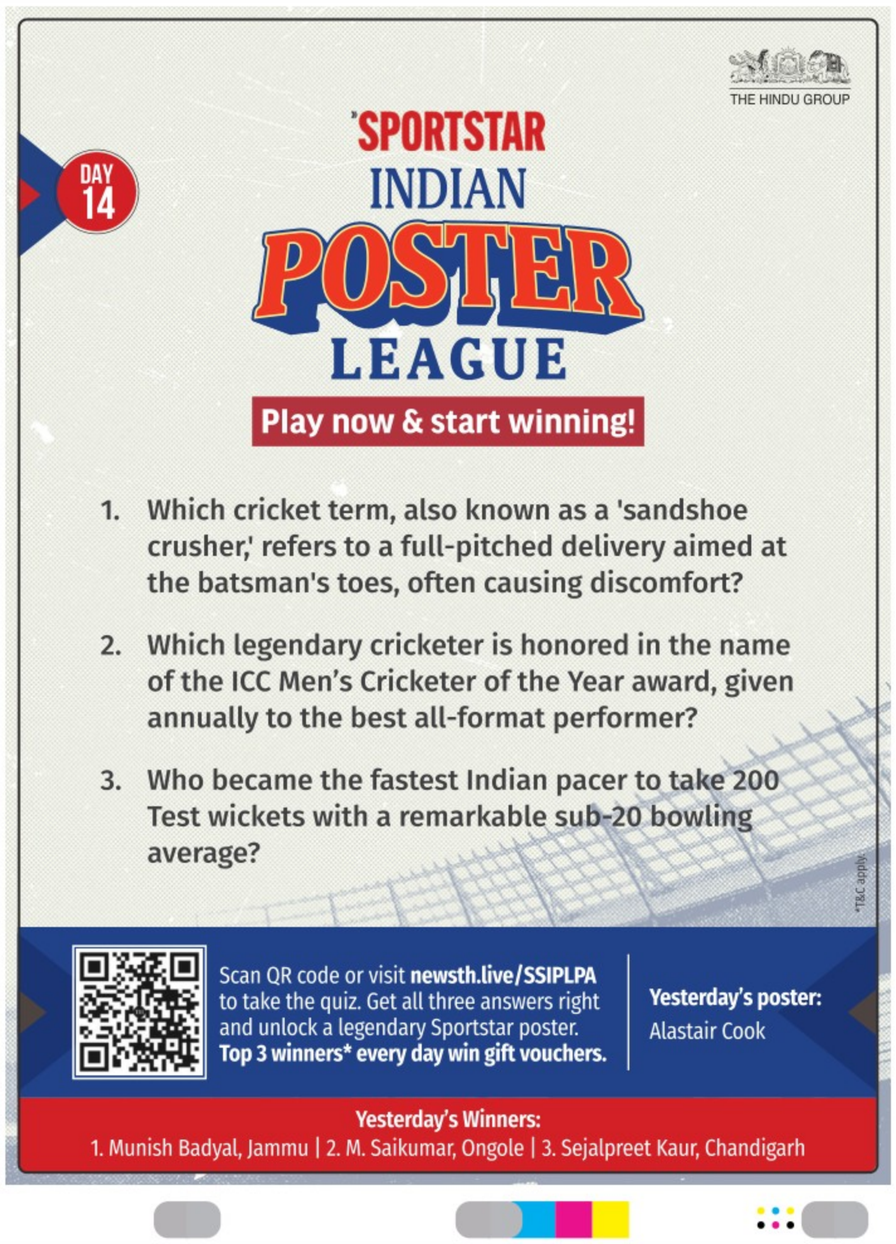
KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in
IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-03/05/2025-26 Date: 03.04.2025
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Civil Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following work as per the schedule given below:
Name of the Work : Construction of balance portion work of proposed Establishment of Mysuru Export Centre, Hebbal Industrial Area. Mysuru District (2nd Call).
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **19.04.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/59/Zen/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary,
No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various heads/TDR/2024-25/
Dt. 01-04-2025.
Short Term Tender Notification
(Through KPPP Portal only)
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 04 work comprising of approved building, Road and Supply of Goods works under 2024-25 KKRDB, 2024-25 Swach Bharath Mission Rural, 15th finance & MGNREGA Convergence, 2024-25 NRLM Works through KPPP portal. Contractors are required to submit the tender before 08-04-2025 at 4.30 PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from 01-04-2025 to 08-04-2025 at 4.30 PM. Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on 09-04-2025 at 5.30 PM. Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/ rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/09/KSMCA/2025-26

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES
3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com Phone No.080-29565353/29566556/29604556
No. SPLOCA/ADM/CR/27/2024-25 **Date: 02-04-2025**
Tender Notice
Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA & Other KPID scam cases Invites tender from interested agencies/ firms/companies/printing press to create/develop formats, applications, documents, books and provide printing services for the same to the office of SPLOCA and all stakeholders of SPLOCA as mentioned in the tender dcoument. The Interested may submit the proposal as detailed in the tender document through E-procurement portal **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or before specified date.
Calendar of Events:

Commencement of download of e-Tender Form From website- **https://eproc. Karnataka.gov.in**	**04/04/2025**
Last Date for Queries on or before	**05/04/2025**
Pre-Bid Meeting	**07/04/2025**
Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before	**08/04/2025**
Opening of Technical Bid	**09/04/2025**
Opening of Financial Bid	**11/04/2025**
Approximate value of tender	**Rs.40.00 Lakhs**

Place for any query: O/o SPLOCA, IMA & Other KPIDFE Scam Cases, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, V V Towers Bengaluru - 560001.
Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner
Special Officer & Competent Authority
DIPR/CP/58/Zen/2025-26 **(IMA & Other KPIDFE Cases) Revenue Department**



ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ– 571 401
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone: 08232-231003, 222086, 231197, 224040,
Fax: 08232-231001
E-Mail Address: mimsmandyasupply@gmail.com , mimsmandya@gmail.com
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮಿಮ್ಸ್/ಸರಬ(1)/Ortho/P.G.fund/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/19/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26.03.2025
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮಿಮ್ಸ್/ಸರಬ(1)/Peadiatrics/P.G.fund/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/20/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26.03.2025
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಕೀಲು ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಳೆ ರೋಗ & ಮಕ್ಕಳ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಸೀಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಿರುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ದರ್ಜೆಗೇರಿಸಲು ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳು, ಪಿಠೋಪಕರಣಗಳು, ಇತರೆ ಐಟಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರವರಿಂದ/ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಕೀಲು ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಳೆ ರೋಗ ವಿಭಾಗ ರೂ.210.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು & ಮಕ್ಕಳ ವಿಭಾಗ ರೂ.105.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಮ್ಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/–ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸಪಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/001/2025–26

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